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NEARBY

'Cong. changed lessons for appeasement'

BENGALURU

The State government, in a counter on Thursday, said the previous Congress govt. had made additions and deletions for "appeasement of minority communities."

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 8

Sinkhole appears on road laid for Modi's visit

BENGALURU

Barely days after many roads got a facelift ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city recently, a sinkhole formed in one of the new roads. As citizens started venting their ire on social media, not only did the Chief Minister order a probe, but following social media posts tagging the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister's Office too has also sought a report, sources in the civic body said.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Govt. notifies draft of newly delimited wards

BENGALURU

The State government notified draft of the newly delimited 243 wards of BBMP on Thursday. The government has given 15 days to submit objections. The number of wards has increased from 198 to 243, with the civic body carving out 45 new wards in the existing area itself.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

METROPLUS ▸ PAGE 7

Shinde says rebel Sena group has support of 'national party'

Pawar says they have to prove majority, but no BJP leader can guide them in it

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Days after his revolt against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the Shiv Sena-led coalition government in the State, rebel party leader Eknath Shinde on Thursday said the entire operation of splitting the party was supported by a "national party". He, however, did not say it was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In response, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar advised the rebels that no BJP leader would come to guide them when they arrived in Mumbai to prove the majority in the Legislative Assembly.

In the evening, the rebel group claimed to have sent another letter to Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, with the signatures of 42 MLAs and claiming Mr. Shinde to be the Sena's legislature party leader. On Wednesday, the rebel group sent a letter with the signatures of 34 MLAs.

The Sena on Wednesday removed Mr. Shinde and appointed Ajay Chaudhary the legislature party leader, to which the rebel group has objected, claiming majority.

Mr. Zirwal's office said that no new letter had been received. "The group leader is decided based on the party chief's letter, and I have received a letter from Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray naming [Ajay] Chaudhary as the legislature party leader, which I have accepted," Mr. Zirwal said.

The video released by Mr. Shinde's aides on Thursday evening shows him addressing the rebel MLAs, and claiming the support of a "national party". He is seen saying: "No matter what happens, we will win. As you said, that is a national party, a superpower. Pakistan...you know what happened."

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EDITORIAL ▸ PAGE 10

Split Sena: Rebel leader Eknath Shinde with MLAs at a hotel in Guwahati on Thursday. • PTI

Disqualify 12 MLAs, Sena urges Deputy Speaker

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena Legislature Party leader Ajay Chaudhari submitted petitions before the Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly on Thursday evening to disqualify 12 MLAs from the rebel group.

Eknath Shinde, Tanaji Sawant, Balaji Kinikar, Anil Babar, Bharat Gogawale, Prakash Surve, Mahesh Shinde, Abdul Sattar, Yamini Jadhav, Sandipan Bhumre, Sanjay Shirsat, Lata Sonawane are the 12 legislators.

Following Mr. Shinde's rebellion, party chief Uddhav Thackeray removed him as legislature party leader. The Sena leadership believes the 12 MLAs will never return to the fold.

MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 13

BRICS supports dialogue between Russia, Ukraine

PM hails 'practical' cooperation of group

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Blaming "selfish actions" by western countries for the economic crisis due to sanctions, Russian President Vladimir Putin called for the strengthening of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) at a virtual summit of leaders of the grouping hosted by China on Thursday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the other leaders discussed the situation in Ukraine and Afghanistan.

While Mr. Modi focussed on the importance of BRICS in the post-pandemic global economic recovery, Chinese President Xi Jinping called upon members to reject the "Cold War mentality" and oppose what he called "unilateral sanctions" by the U.S. and the European Union.

Meeting point

Mr. Modi said the BRICS countries had a "very similar view of the governance of the global economy". He hailed "practical" cooperation in a number of areas including the New Development Bank, a satellite agreement, a COVID Research and Development Centre set up in South Africa, and the mutual recognition of pharma products, including COVID vaccines and medicines.

Narendra Modi addressing the BRICS summit in New Delhi on Thursday. • PTI

The Beijing summit declaration said that BRICS countries recalled their national positions as expressed at the United Nations over the past few months.

"We support talks between Russia and Ukraine. We have also discussed our concerns over the humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine and expressed our support to efforts of the UN Secretary-General, UN Agencies and ICRC to provide humanitarian assistance in accordance with the basic principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality," the BRICS declaration said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Key AIADMK meeting held amid chaos

ARAVIND KUMAR B.
CHENNAI

The executive and general council of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) that met under chaotic circumstances on the outskirts of Chennai on Thursday could not deliberate on the demand to elect former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami as its supreme leader. In an order at the crack of dawn, a Division Bench of the Madras High Court restrained the AIADMK from taking any decision on restoring unitary leadership.

Party coordinator and three-time former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, who is against amending the dual leadership structure in the AIADMK, the principal Opposition party in Tamil Nadu, faced a hostile situation and stood hopelessly outnumbered at the general council. Mr. Panneerselvam left in a huff with a few supporters before the meeting ended.

In an unprecedented act, deputy coordinator K. P. Munusamy and steering committee member C. Ve. Shanmugam, both supporters of Mr. Palaniswami, declared that all 23 resolutions on the agenda were summarily "rejected" by the general council, to thunderous applause.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

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100Million
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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Boom in media industry

4.3 In %, the expected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) at which the Indian media and entertainment industry is expected to grow and reach ₹4.30 lakh crore by 2026, according to PwC's Global Entertainment & Media Outlook 2022-2026. The growth would be paced by digital media and advertising through deeper penetration of the Internet and mobile devices in the domestic market, along with traditional media, the report said. TV advertising is expected to reach over ₹43,000 crore by 2026. PTI

Granting work visas

300 In thousand, the number of temporary work visas the United States will announce to offer to Mexicans and Central Americans when the Mexican president visits Washington next month, Mexico's Interior Minister Adan Augusto Lopez said on Wednesday. Mr. Lopez said 1,50,000 of the visas will be for Mexicans or foreigners who are in Mexico waiting for the possibility of migrating to the U.S. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is set to meet his U.S. counterpart, Joe Biden, in Washington in July. REUTERS

Loans from China

2.3 In $ billion, the loan facility agreement signed by Pakistan on Wednesday with a Chinese consortium of banks to help the country's cash-strapped economy in the wake of depleting foreign exchange reserves and depreciation of its local currency. The loan agreement with Chinese banks will boost the crisis-hit Pakistan's reserves and enable Islamabad to make import payments while lending some support to the rupee as well. The Pakistani rupee has lost over 34% since the beginning of the outgoing fiscal year 2021-22. PTI

Entering the job market

10.8 In million, the record number of Chinese graduates entering the worst job market in decades at a time when youth unemployment is already more than three times China's overall joblessness rate, at a record 18.4%. Unemployment is awkward for the Communist Party, especially in a year when President Xi Jinping is expected to secure third leadership term. Premier of the People's Republic of China, Li Keqiang, has said that stabilising the job market for graduates is a top government priority. REUTERS

Diseases due to flood

4,000 The number of people to contract various waterborne illnesses so far in flood-hit districts, with more than half the cases in the Sylhet region of Bangladesh, as the region faces the worst flooding in 100 years. Authorities in Bangladesh are racing to get drinking water to over 4.5 million people stranded in their homes, an official said on Thursday. About 42 people were killed in the flood, with over 2,000 rescue teams trying to reach victims in 17 districts. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Pakistan's economic muddling and the IMF challenge

The falling rupee, depleting foreign exchange reserves, energy shortage, increasing fuel prices and a complicated external support highlight the contemporary economic crisis Pakistan is in. Will Islamabad find a way out?

THE GIST

- Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have been depleting during the last one year and it has come down to $8.9 billion in June 2022.
- The IMF is willing to support but it wants Pakistan "to address high inflation and the elevated fiscal and current account deficits, while ensuring adequate protection for the most vulnerable."
- Pakistan's economic and energy situation is serious that demands bold decisions and the situation will worsen in the short term before it gets better, but this has been the nation's history in the last 75 years.

D. SUBA CHANDRAN

The Pakistani rupee (PKR) has been falling continuously; from 150 in April 2021 to 213 against the dollar on 21 June, an all-time low. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have been depleting during the last one year. According to State Bank of Pakistan data, from $17.2 billion in June 2021, the net reserves with the SBP have come down to $8.9 billion in June 2022.

The new government has already increased the fuel price – in late May and early June. Besides, the new budget has proposed resuming the petroleum development levy. This would mean increased oil and electricity prices, which has the potential to bring people to the streets. Earlier this month, citing "heightened external vulnerability risk" and the "ability to secure additional external financing," the rating agency Moody's downgraded Pakistan's outlook to negative.

The government-International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks have remained complicated.

Will the IMF bail out Pakistan?

The immediate future of Pakistan's economy would depend on IMF resuming its support. Despite an intense discussion between the two, there has not been a breakthrough until now. Pakistan's relationship with the IMF has remained complicated. Though Islamabad has been negotiating with the IMF repeatedly, there has been an economic nationalism, mostly jingoistic, against approaching the IMF in recent years. Imran Khan, the former Prime Minister made statements and fuelled the sentiments against the IMF. After becoming the PM in 2018, he preferred approaching friendly countries (China and Saudi Arabia) and avoiding the IMF. The new government is now back to the IMF; it expects the IMF to release the payments, expand the support programme, and give a longer rope to repay.

The IMF is willing to support Pakistan but has some conditions regarding macroeconomic reforms. This was highlighted in the IMF statement after the last meeting in May 2022. The IMF wants Pakistan "to address high inflation and the elevated fiscal and current account deficits, while ensuring adequate protection for the most vulnerable." The IMF would also not want any deviations from what has been agreed to, especially concerning fuel and power subsidies. Besides, the IMF wants Pakistan to be transparent about its debt situation, including what Islamabad owes to China, as a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Subsidies are politically sensitive; with elections ahead, it would not be an easy decision. The new budget also has proposed resuming the petroleum tax levy. With the above, the new government expects that the IMF will consider resuming its package.

The IMF may agree to support after a few more promises by the government. But the relief may be less than what Pakistan would hope for. Without macroeconomic reforms, the IMF is less likely to expand its support programme, or provide a longer rope to Pakistan, that Islamabad wants.

Will Pakistan pursue macroeconomic reforms?

This has been a million-dollar question. Economists within Pakistan and elsewhere have been arguing for macroeconomic reforms, including the independence of financial institutions. It is a political question that the successive governments led by the Pakistan Peoples Party (2008-13), Pakistan Muslim League-N (2013-18) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (2018-22) were unwilling to address. Instead, all governments continued to borrow from global institutions and friendly countries.

The budgets have remained populist; the economic governance declined due to corruption, lack of financial institutions' independence, and the export decline. The subsidies in the energy sector – fuel, oil and electricity – remain high. With the present government led by the PML-N and PPP combine facing elections, they are less likely to take any further bold decisions. Successive governments, especially the previous one, would instead look for external bailouts and support from "friendly" countries.

Will "friendly countries" support Pakistan without preconditions?

Saudi Arabia and China have been supporting Pakistan. Immediately after becoming the Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif visited Saudi Arabia to secure a loan. In early May 2022, Riyadh agreed to provide $8 billion; in December 2021, Imran Khan secured a $3 billion support. A similar understanding was reached in October 2021. However, Riyadh's support was not unconditional. An editorial in *Dawn* in November 2021 highlighted that Riyadh can ask Pakistan "to return the money at any time if the two countries have divergent views regarding their relationship or ties with a third country, or some other issue."

China has been another significant source for Pakistan. Islamabad has been regularly seeking loans from China within and outside the CPEC projects. While the CPEC projects kept expanding and was projected as a panacea for Pakistan's economic problems, there are many questions over the hidden costs. Pakistan also had to raise the security for the CPEC projects after a series of militant attacks. Pakistan has created a Special Security Division to provide security exclusively for the CPEC projects, increasing the cost further. A larger question is whether Pakistan would divert external aid to pay its debts to China? This has been one of the questions raised by the IMF, way back in 2018, and remains relevant even today.

During the latest Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meeting, there was an understanding that Pakistan has met its requirement. The FATF has agreed to explore the possibilities of removing Pakistan from the grey list.

However, when Pakistan was on the grey list, the IMF had been holding talks with Islamabad. The big two – China and Saudi Arabia – were not constrained by Pakistan's listing in the FATF. So, the relaxation is less likely to open gates for big investments.

Activists display placards and shout slogans during a demonstration against inflation and fuel price hike in Karachi. • AFP

Will Pakistan go the Sri Lankan way?

The situation was similar in Sri Lanka – the falling value of rupee, declining foreign exchange reserves, differences with the IMF, and rising fuel prices. All of them led to public protests in Sri Lanka against the government. The economic and energy crises in Pakistan have not snowballed into a political storm as it had happened in Sri Lanka during April-May. Will there be one?

Politically, unlike in Sri Lanka, there is a coalition at the federal level; the main partners – the PML-N and the PPP – have a strong presence and control over the two big provinces, Punjab and Sindh.

To conclude, Pakistan's economic and energy situation is serious and demands bold decisions. The situation will worsen in the short term before it gets better, but this has been Pakistan's history in the last 75 years. With a relief from the IMF, after a protracted negotiation, a few band aids, and the U.S. intervention, Islamabad may muddle through this time as well, until the next crisis.

D. Suba Chandran is Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru.

EXPLAINER

Open network for digital commerce

What is ONDC and how will it change e-commerce platforms? How will the ONDC network aid online applications?

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

The story so far: The government of India announced the launch of the pilot phase of open network for digital commerce (ONDC) in five cities in late April with an aim to "democratise" the country's fast growing digital e-commerce space that is currently dominated by the two U.S.-headquartered firms – Amazon and Walmart. The announcement was made by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. "After UPI, another game changing idea to democratise commerce – ONDC soft launch today to select consumers, sellers and logistics providers. Get ready for a world of choice, convenience and transparency," Mr Goyal had tweeted.

What is ONDC?

As per the strategy paper on ONDC, it is a not-for-profit organisation that will offer a network to enable local digital commerce stores across industries to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled applications. It is neither an aggregator application nor a hosting platform, and all existing digital commerce applications and platforms can voluntarily choose to adopt and be a part of the ONDC network.

The ONDC aims to enable buying of products from all participating e-commerce platforms by consumers through a single platform. Currently, a buyer needs to go to Amazon, for example, to buy a product from a seller on Amazon. Under ONDC, it is envisaged that a buyer registered on one participating e-commerce site (for example, Amazon) may purchase goods from a seller on another participating e-commerce site (for example, Flipkart).

The ONDC model is trying to replicate the success of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the field of digital payments. UPI allows people to send or receive money irrespective of the payment platforms they are registered on. The open network concept also extends beyond the retail sector, to any digital commerce domains including wholesale, mobility, food delivery, logistics, travel, urban services, etc.

What led to formation of ONDC?

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under Ministry of Commerce and Industries, conducted an outreach

during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic to understand its impact on small sellers and hyperlocal supply chain functioning. Post which, it found that there is a huge disconnect between the scale of online demand and the ability of the local retail ecosystem to participate. Following this, consultations were held with multiple ministries and industry experts and "ONDC was envisioned to revolutionise digital commerce in India," as per the strategy paper.

The paper added that ONDC has been envisaged as an entity which should be able to work without the need for day-to-day guidance and advisory from the shareholders/members. The independence of the management is linked to the financial independence of the entity, and therefore, the entity will be required to get funding independently and have a self-sustaining financial model.

What is the current status?

Presently, ONDC is in its pilot stage in five cities – Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong and Coimbatore – with a target of onboarding around 150 retailers.

The government has also constituted an advisory council to analyse the potential of ONDC as a concept and to advise the government on measures needed to accelerate its adoption. Its members include Nandan M. Nilekani, Non- Executive Chairman, Infosys; R.S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority; Dilip Asbe, Managing Director and CEO, NPCI; Anjali Bansal Founder and Chairperson, Avaana Capital; Suresh Sethi, Managing Director and CEO, Protean eGov Technologies Ltd.; Arvind Gupta Co-Founder & Head, Digital India Foundation; Kumar Rajagopalan CEO, Retailers Association of India; Adil Zainulbhai Chairman, Quality Council of India and Capacity Building Commission; and Anil Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Over the next five years, the ONDC expects to bring on board 90 crore users and 12 lakh sellers on the network, enabling 730 crore additional purchases and an additional gross merchandising value (GMV) of ₹3.75 crore. The GMV for the digital commerce retail market in India was ₹2.85 lakh crore ($38 billion) in 2020, which is only 4.3% of the total retail GMV in India.

What are the likely benefits of ONDC

The ONDC will standardise operations like cataloguing, inventory management, order management and order fulfilment, hence making it simpler and easier for small businesses to be discoverable over network and conduct business.

However, experts have pointed out some likely potential issues such as getting enough number of e-commerce platforms to sign up, along with issues related to customer service and payment integration.

THE GIST

- ONDC is a not-for-profit organisation that will offer a network to enable local digital commerce stores across industries to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled applications.
- The ONDC model is trying to replicate the success of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the field of digital payments.
- Over the next five years, the ONDC expects to bring on board 90 crore users and 12 lakh sellers on the network, enabling 730 crore additional purchases.

Sinkhole appears on road that was laid for Modi's visit

PMO, Bommai seek report; BBMP engineer says water leaked from BWSSB pipeline

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Barely days after many roads got a facelift ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city recently, a sinkhole formed in one of the newly laid roads.

As citizens started venting their ire on social media, not only did the Chief Minister order a probe, but following social media posts tagging the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) too has also sought a report, sources in the civic body said.

Mr. Modi travelled by the road on June 20. The sinkhole appeared on the road ahead of Nagarabhavi Circle near the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru (BASE), campus that Mr. Modi inaugurated recently.

There has been water leakage from a Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board pipeline that has loosened the soil, causing a sinkhole. We have immediately taken note of it and are addressing the issue.

A SENIOR ENGINEER FROM BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

"There has been water leakage from a Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) pipeline that has loosened the soil, causing a sinkhole. We have immediately taken note of it and are addressing the issue," said a senior engineer from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Another engineer said they wrote to the BWSSB in the second week of June while restoring the road to fix an old water pipeline, but it did not respond and the civic body went ahead and tried to fix the pipeline and asphalted the road.

However, a senior BWSSB official claimed that their engineers had conducted a spot inspection and found no fault of theirs. BBMP recently said they had spent ₹23 crore to redo 14 km of road, including the stretch that caved in on Thursday, ahead of the PM's visit.

When quizzed on the issue, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, speaking to media persons in New Delhi on Thursday, said he had directed the Chief Civic Commissioner to carry out an inquiry and fix the responsibility on officials and take suitable action. He also said *prima facie*, it looked like the sinkhole was caused because of a leakage from the water pipeline.

Bescom consumers get a nasty shock

Several have reportedly become targets of phishing attacks

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

'Dear CUSTOMAR, your electricity power will be disconnected to night at 9.30 p.m, from electricity office because your previous month bill was not updated. Please immediately contact with our electricity officer 9693325442 Thank you'.

If you get such a message that your power connection will be disconnected for non-payment of bill, beware; it is an attempted phishing attack on your bank account.

Wg. Cdr. Kurian Cherian (retd) learnt it the hard way after losing ₹10,000 to the phishing attack, despite not sharing any one-time password (OTP) with the caller.

Bescom has also reported these phishing attacks to the cybercrime police.
• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

"I got a message on my mobile phone that the power will be disconnected by 9.30 p.m. for non-payment of bills for May and it asked me to contact an electricity officer and provided a number for the same. When I called him and clarified that I had indeed paid our bills, he said the database was yet to be updated and asked me to make an online payment of ₹10 saying it will be credited in the next bill. I made a payment of ₹100. Soon, my wife, from whose account the payment was made, got messages indicating the transfer of nearly a ₹1 lakh. I did not give any OTP and cut the call," he said.

However, he soon realised that ₹10,000 had been successfully transferred from his daughter's bank account, which had also been used earlier to make Bescom bill payments.

He soon blocked both his wife's and daughter's accounts and lodged a complaint with the cyber crime police.

But this doesn't seem to be his experience alone. Several Bescom customers have reportedly become targets of phishing attacks using this modus operandi recently.

S.R. Nagaraja, General Manager, Customer Relations, Bescom, said that it had come to their notice as well that several customers had received the same message as Mr. Cherian and, in the fear of getting their power disconnected, they have made online payments and got cheated.

"From Bescom, we would like to clarify that nobody from us will send a message to customers over non-payment. Bescom officials come to the house physically and disconnect power in case of non-payment of bills after a grace period of 30 days," he said. He also appealed to customers to report such phishing attempts to the Bescom helpline, 1912, or to the jurisdictional Assistant Executive Engineer.

Meanwhile, Bescom has also reported these phishing attacks to the cyber crime police. A senior police official said that efforts are on to nab these gangs, mostly based out of Jharkhand, who are behind such attacks.

Pourakarmikas to go on indefinite strike from July 1

They want their employment to be regularised

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Safai karamcharis and pourkarmikas have announced an indefinite strike across the State from July 1, demanding that their employment be regularised and made permanent.

All pourakarmikas will strike work and hold an indefinite demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioners' offices in all districts, said the Joint Struggle Committee of Pourakarmika Unions.

"The State Cabinet in 2017 decided to abolish the contract system and take all pourakarmikas on rolls across the State. However, bureaucrats brought in Special Recruitment Rules for Pourakarmikas - 2017, in which they categorised only those who sweep the streets as pourakarmikas and kept out other cleanliness workers, involved in cleaning drains, loaders, garbage collectors, truck drivers and others," said members of the committee at a press conference here on Thursday.

A file photo of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike pourakarmikas at work near the city railway station.

This, the committee said, is creating divisions among the cleanliness workers, unions, and a ploy of officers who do not want to take all pourakarmikas onto the rolls, in violation of the spirit of the Cabinet decision.

"Even in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), it has been nearly five years since the State government has issued an order to regularise the employment of 4,600 pourakarmikas," said the committee.

The committee has now demanded that all cleanliness workers, irrespective of the kind of work they do, to be treated as pourakarmikas and their employment be regularised across the State.

The committee has also demanded that pourakarmikas be employed on a direct payment basis with civic bodies and be given retirement benefit of ₹10 lakh and a pension of ₹5,000. They have also demanded that the civic bodies provide drinking water, toilet, maternity leave, allowance, and other facilities to them.

Govt. notifies draft of newly delimited 243 wards in city

15 days provided to submit any objections

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The State government notified the draft of the newly delimited 243 wards of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike on Thursday. The government has provided 15 days to submit any objections. The number of wards has increased from 198 to 243, with the civic body carving out 45 new wards in the existing area itself.

Most of the Assembly constituencies in the outer zones such as Mahadevapura (from eight wards to 13), Bommanahalli (eight to 14), R.R. Nagar (nine to 14), and Bengaluru South (seven to 12) have added the most number of new wards. Shivajinagar, Chamarajpet, and Jayanagar are the only three Assembly constituencies which have lost wards – each of them will have six wards as against seven earlier. Interestingly, many of the core area constituencies have also added wards – Basavanagudi (from six to seven wards), C.V. Raman Nagar (from seven to nine wards).

Senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy, who has repeatedly come down against the draft as prepared by the "RSS" solely with the interest of the BJP in mind, said the party would study the draft and submit its objections, and if needed, they were open to challenge it legally.

Accepting an affidavit submitted by the State government, the Supreme Court on May 20 provided eight weeks' time to complete the delimitation of wards and fix the OBC reservation, and hold the much-delayed civic polls soon after. The government has now notified the draft in the fifth week and the process will take another three weeks, just in time for the deadline, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Justice Bhaktavatsalam committee is yet to complete the study of OBC representation in the civic body and fix the reservation, which too will be completed within the eight-week deadline, sources in the government said.

Many named after historical figures

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Some of the new wards are named after historical figures.

Kanneshwara Rama, Veera Madakari, Chanakya, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Ranadheera Kantheerava, Veera Sindhura Lakshmana, Vijayanagara Krishnadevaraya, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, Deendayalu – are some of the ward names.

Assembly constituency	Existing number of wards	Proposed number of wards
Yelahanka	4	5
K.R. Puram	9	13
Byatarayanapura	7	10
Yeshwantpur	5	8
R.R. Nagar	9	14
Dasarahalli	8	12
Mahalakshmi Layout	7	9
Malleswaram	7	7
Hebbal	8	8
Pulikeshnagar	7	7
Sarvagnanagar	8	10
C.V. Raman Nagar	7	9
Shivajinagar	7	6
Shantinagar	7	7
Gandhinagar	7	7
Rajajinagar	7	7
Govindaraj Nagar	9	10
Vijayanagar	8	9
Chamarajpet	7	6
Chickpet	7	7
Basavanagudi	6	7
Padmanabhanagar	8	10
BTM layout	8	9
Jayanagar	7	6
Mahadevapura	8	13
Bommanahalli	8	14
Bengaluru South	7	12
Anekal	1	1

Analyse conduct of accused before granting interim relief in cheque dishonour cases: HC

'Proper application of mind and recording of reasons by the trial court are essential'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The trial courts must examine whether an accused person is attempting to delay proceedings in cheque dishonour cases when considering the plea of the complainant for grant of interim compensation as per the new provision added in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, with effect from August 2018.

FROM THE COURT

The bedrock of the NI (Amendment) Act, 2018, was to stall unscrupulous drawers of cheques dragging proceedings with frivolous applications, absenting themselves, seeking continuous adjournments causing delay and grave prejudice to the case of the complainants as clearly stated in the 'statements of objects and reasons' of the 2018 Act, the High Court pointed out. Such being the background for introducing provision for payment of interim compensation and legal consequences for not paying such interim compensation, the trial courts should grant interim compensation, which would vary from 1% to 20%, only after analysing the conduct of the accused and recording proper reasons, the High Court made it clear. Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on finding that a magistrate court in Bengaluru city had not assigned any reason for ordering payment of 10% (around ₹55 lakh) of the value of the dishonoured cheque, which was ₹5.56 crore, in favour of the complainant.

V. Krishnamurthy, a distributor of ice cream for Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, had questioned the trial court's order of asking him to pay interim compensation to Diary Classic Ice Creams Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru.

Proper application of mind and recording of reasons by the trial court is essential for grant of interim compensation as every application that is made need not result in grant of interim compensation, the High Court said.

The trial court has to decide whether there is a need to grant interim compensation at all in cases where accused completely cooperate for trial, the High Court said.

Recording of reason is also important as non payment of interim compensation attracts serious legal consequence, including taking accused into custody, under Section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the High Court pointed out.

The High Court also pointed out that the trial courts also have to bear in mind the value of the dishonoured cheque while deciding quantum of interim compensation as some times value runs into several crores.

Accused of 'spitting', 21-year-old popcorn seller is now without a job

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old popcorn seller, who was arrested on the charge of spitting in an oil pan at Lalbagh on June 11, is today without any means of livelihood, and is running from pillar to post to get back his machine that was seized by the police.

Nawaz Pasha was eking out a living by selling popcorn and cotton candies at exhibitions and private parties, but has lost the contracts due to the controversy. Many of the party organisers have cancelled the contract after watching the news, he rued.

"I borrowed ₹10,000 personal loan to buy the material to set up the stall and groceries to make popcorn and cotton candy. In addition, the stall owner had also paid ₹40,000 to run the business. Now he is demanding that I should pay for the loss . Where will I get this money from?" he asked.

"I have been in this business for the past six years and worked in star hotels and big parties, but this sort of nightmare never happened with me. How can I spit into the the food which is eaten by everyone," he questioned.

Recalling how the controversy began, he said, "I peeled the plastic seal from the bottle of oil and kept it in my mouth, when the person who accused me started creating a ruckus and accused me of spitting into the oil pan thrice. I told him to get it tested and pleaded innocence, but he insisted that I be arrested and did not even come to the station to file a complaint," Mr. Pasha recalled. "I started working as a labourer at a vehicle spare parts shop on J.C. Road . Hopefully, I'll get back my machine from the police station soon, but I wonder if I will get back my dignity," he said.

Computers stolen from e-governance office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police registered a theft case against unknown persons for stealing two computers from the e-governance office situated in the high-security zone of V.V. Towers on Monday.

The case was registered based on a complaint by K. Susheela, a staffer who was the last person to see the computers at office before leaving work.

Upon her return the next day, she found both the systems missing and the security personnel deployed at the office premises allegedly feigned ignorance stating they had seen the office locked.

The police are now verifying the CCTV camera footage from in and around the building to identify the accused and are also questioning the security staff.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MARIE Vellangani, W/o. Andre Clayton Suares, residing at #233, Ground Floor, Govindapura Cross, Nagavara, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to Maria Suares vide affidavit dated 23/06/2022 sworn before Notary Gangaraju. B. N, Bengaluru.

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PERSONAL

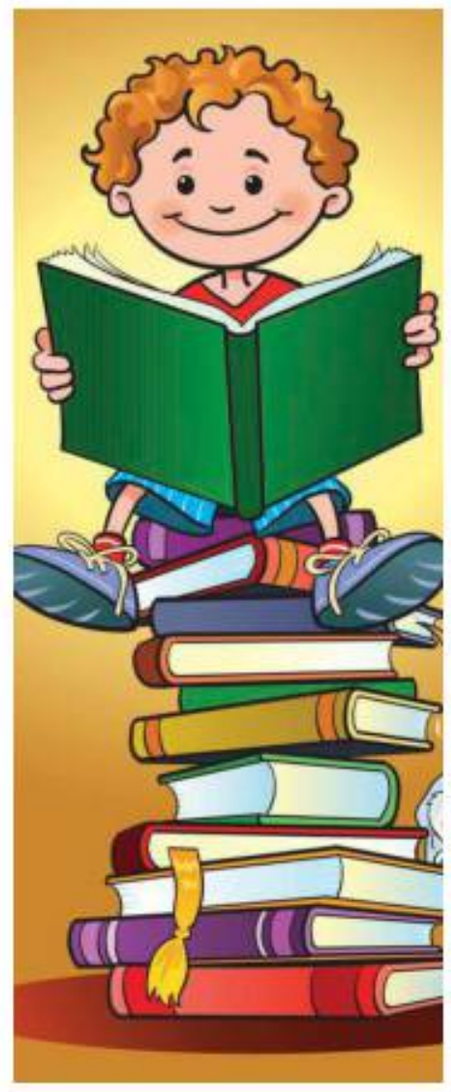
CHANGE OF NAME

I, TAPAN Kumar Raul (Army No JC-328547X) R/o ADMC, Banaswdi Bengaluru-560033, In Indian army BEG records ROORKEE my Father Gopal Chandra Raul, D.O.B is entered 01-07-1941 but correct D.O.B is 14-11-1948 and my mother Arti Bala Raul, D.O.B. 01-07-1946 but the correct name is Arati Bala Raul, correct D.O.B is 15-02-1956, vide Affidavit dated 15-06-2022 sworn before Notary Udaya Kumar K. Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Vimal John Samuel S/O. S. Shanmugavelu residing at No. 6, Akshaya, 7th Main Road, Rajeev Nagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced Hinduism and renounced Christianity with effect from 06.03.2022. Henceforth I have changed my name from Vimal John Samuel to S. Vimal Kumar for all purposes.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"What's the difference between 'defensible' and 'defensive', sir?"

"That which can be defended is 'defensible.'

I am afraid it is not a defensible position.

His stand is not defensible.

What is not defensible is 'indefensible.'

His behaviour at the meeting is indefensible.

Defensive means 'intended or serving to defend.'

A defensive weapon.

A defensive position.

The opposite of 'defensive' is 'offensive.' Whether a weapon is defensive or offensive depends on whether you are behind the weapon or before it."

"What are the other ways of saying 'I am keen to see him,' sir?"

"*I am eager to see him.*

I am longing to see him.

I am dying to see him.

I am anxious to see him.

You can use any of these. What you choose will depend on the intensity of your desire to see him."

"He aims at becoming a teacher. He aims to become a teacher – which is correct, sir?"

"Both are correct In British English, only 'aim at' was used till recently. 'Aim to', which is American, has influenced British English. Now you find both 'aim at' and 'aim to' in British English.

He is aiming at becoming a pilot.

He aims to be a pilot.

He aims at being a politician.

He aims to be a politician.

He aims to go to the top.

He aims at going to the top.

Fowler's Modem English Usage revised by Cowers (1965) says: 'Until recently it was possible to say with confidence that in Britain this verb in the metaphorical sense of 'purpose' or 'design' or 'endeavour' was idiomatically followed by *at* with the gerund, not by *to* with the infinitive... But the analogy of purpose, try, intend, which take the infinitive reinforced by the general use of that construction with aim in American, is proving too strong..."

"What is the meaning of 'turn back', 'turn round' and 'return back', sir?"

"You return or come back. But don't say 'I returned back.' 'Return' means 'to come back'. Suppose you are standing at a bus stop, I come behind you and call you. You turn round to see who it was that called you. You stay in the same place but you look in the opposite direction.

He turned round when I called him. He was examining the map on the wall. He turned round when he heard some noise.

You leave your home for office. After walking about 100 yards, you remember that you have left your office keys at home. You turn back to collect the keys. When you 'turn back,' you turn and go back along the way you came earlier. You retrace your steps. You walk back the way you came. I hope I have made myself clear.

Let's stop here. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Musical biopics: When box office and critics go ka-chung!

With Baz Luhrman's 'Elvis' opening on June 24, a look at the bubbling cauldron of charismatic performances and high drama that goes into the making of a successful musical biopic

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

THE GIST

- *Elvis* is the latest in a long line of musical biopics from 1968's *Funny Girl* to Lin-Manuel Miranda's directorial debut, *Tick, Tick... Boom!* (2021).
- Taron Egerton's performance as British singer and pianist, Elton John, in Dexter Fletcher's *Rocketman* (2019) won him a slew of nominations and a Golden Globe.
- Hugh Jackman got a best actor nomination at the Golden Globes for his performance as entertainer P.T. Barnum, in Michael Gracey's *The Greatest Showman* (2017).

With *Elvis*, based on the life of The King played by Austin Butler, and his thorny relationship with his manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks), Baz Luhrman is on familiar ground. The *Moulin Rouge!* director is known for his extravagantly-produced musical numbers.

Elvis is the latest in a long line of musical biopics from 1968's *Funny Girl* which Barbra Streisand nailed with her portrayal of Fanny Brice to Andrew Garfield's delightful personification of Jonathan Larson in Lin-Manuel Miranda's directorial debut, *Tick, Tick... Boom!* (2021).

Award darlings

Musical biopics, if done right, apart from being first-rate entertainers are award magnets. Andrew Garfield's Golden Globe win and the Oscar nomination continues the tradition of recognition. George C. Wolfe's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (2020), which tells the story of blues singer, Ma Rainey (Viola Davis) and a fraught recording session in 1927 Chicago, received five Oscar nominations and won two for Makeup and Hairstyling, and Costume Design.

Chadwick Boseman's incendiary performance as the hot-headed trumpeter, Levee, won him a best actor nomination.

Taron Egerton's performance as British singer and pianist, Elton John in Dexter Fletcher's *Rocketman* (2019) won him a slew of nominations and a Golden Globe. As Judy Garland in Rupert Goold's *Judy* (2019), Renée Zellweger won the Academy Award for Best Actress, as well as the Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild (SAG), BAFTA and Critics' Choice.

Peter Farrelly's *Green Book* (2018) set in 1962 detailing a tour by African-American pianist Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali) and his driver and bodyguard Frank Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen), took the Best Picture Oscar as well as Original Screenplay. Ali, apart from his Supporting Actor win at the Oscars also won at the Golden Globes, BAFTA and SAG.

They will rock you

Also in 2018 was Brian Singer's *Bohemian Rhapsody* on the life of Freddie Mercury (Rami Malek), lead singer of the British rock band, Queen. While there were murmurs against skirting the issue of Mercury's sexuality and the toning down of some of the greater excesses, *Bohemian Rhapsody* was a box office and critics' favourite.

Musical biopics, if done right, apart from being first-rate entertainers are award magnets

Like Ali, apart from taking the Oscar for Best Actor, Malek also snagged wins at the Golden Globes, BAFTA and SAG. *Bohemian Rhapsody* with its towering, anthemic numbers, won Oscars for film and sound editing, and sound mixing.

Hugh Jackman got a best actor nomination at the Golden Globes for his performance as entertainer P.T. Barnum, in Michael Gracey's *The Greatest Showman* (2017). The film won the Golden Globe for Best Original Song for 'This Is Me'.

In the noughties, there was Taylor Hackford's *Ray* (2004) on the life of R&B musician Ray Charles. For his performance as Charles, Jamie Foxx won all the five major acting awards – Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA, SAG and Critic's Choice, becoming only the second actor to do so.

James Mangold's *Walk the Line* (2005) on the life of Johnny Cash (Joaquin Phoenix) focuses on the country music singer and songwriter's relationship with singer June Carter (Reese Witherspoon) and his struggles with addiction. The film got five Oscar nominations, including best actress for Witherspoon that she won.

Six actors in search of an icon

While there are biopics that are straight narratives, Todd Haynes' *I'm Not There* (2007) should get a medal for its unconventionality. Six actors – Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger and Ben Whishaw portray different aspects of counterculture icon Bob Dylan.

For her interpretation as Jude Quinn, an androgynous version of the mid-sixties Dylan complete with Wayfarers, polka-dot shirt and vampiric, long pointed nails, Blanchett won the Golden Globe Award and an Academy Award nomination.

Stream on

The smaller screens have woken up to the possibilities of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Peter Jackson's 468-minute love letter to The Beatles, *Get Back*, is a documentary of the Fab Four putting songs together for the album, *Let it Be*, in the studio in January 1969.

Robert Siegel's *Pam & Tommy* – a mini-series on the relationship between *Baywatch* star Pamela Anderson and Mötley Crüe drummer, Tommy Lee, and the sex tape they made on their honeymoon makes for riveting viewing.

Lily James and Sebastian Stan as Anderson and Lee have created living, breathing characters far removed from caricature. There is also Danny Boyle's six-part series, *Pistol*, on the seventies punk rock band Sex Pistols.

The music industry is an irresistible mix of talent, inspiration and unruliness. It is no small wonder then that the lives of the bad boys and the bad girls of the industry translate so well on screen.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Lionel Messi, the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, celebrates his birthday on June 24. Here is a quiz on famous Argentinian footballers

1 In the FIFA quarterfinals of 1986, this Argentinian footballer scored the best goal (polled by FIFA 2002) in World Cup history against England, setting Argentina on a path to win its second World Cup title. Name this player.

2 Name this former physician, footballer and manager, famously called 'el narigón' by his fans, who coached the Argentinian football team to victory in the 1986 FIFA World Cup.

3 Name the Argentinian footballer who played in the 1930 World Cup finals as a part of the Argentinian team only to go on and win the World Cup in 1934 for Italy, all the while dealing with various threats to his safety.

4 Considered one of the greatest South American defenders of all time, this former Argentinian player and manager was the captain of the team that won the 1978 World Cup. He was also a part of the 1986 World Cup winning team. Name this person.

5 Name the Ballon d'Or winner who played for the youth team of Newell's Old Boys club in Argentina. He formed a part of the near-unbeatable Newell's Old Boys nicknamed 'The Machine of '87'. FC Barcelona signed him on the back of a napkin at the age of 12.

Compiled by: Tamma Moksha

◄ Recognise this former Argentinian footballer who is currently the coach of the Argentina Under-17 football team?

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of this video game, named the protagonist character after the landlord of Ninetendo's warehouse. Name the protagonist. **Ans: Mario**

2. Name the video game whose title references the term used in the U.S. for motor vehicle theft. **Ans: Grand Theft Auto**

3. Name the video game created by Alexey Pajitnov which is a portmanteau of a word meaning 'four' and his favourite sport tennis. **Ans: Tetris**

4. Name the console released by Nintendoin April 1989, with a built-in screen, controls and speakers. **Ans: Game boy**

5. Name the arcade fighting game that is popular for its finishing moves called 'Fatalities'. **Ans: Mortal Kombat**

6. Toru Iwatani is a Guinness World Record holder for developing a game that has the most "coin-operated arcade machines" installed worldwide. Name the video game. **Ans: Pacman**

7. The creators of this game purchased a book on Tasmanian mammals and picked this animal, naming the character after its species and the visceral reaction to its destruction of boxes. Identify the character. **Ans: Crash Bandicoot**

Visual: Released in 1989, this city-building simulation video game is also known as 'Micropolis'. Identify the game. **Ans: Simcity**

Early Birds: Anjan Banerjee | Thejasanuo Vich | Adasho Krasi | K.N. Viswanathan

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Highest-ever pre-authorisations under AB-ArK recorded in May

SAST has settled claims worth ₹225 crore, including ₹125 crore to pvt. hospitals

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Karnataka has recorded the highest ever pre-authorisations under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK), its flagship health insurance scheme, in May this year that saw 1.55 lakh.

While over 13 lakh pre-authorisations were recorded in the whole of last year, nearly 3 lakh have been recorded in the first two months of this financial year itself.

According to data from the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), the nodal agency that is implementing the health scheme, this year so far the demand is high for simple secondary general procedures followed by general medicine, and gynaecology.

Claims worth a total of ₹225 crore raised by empanelled hospitals, including ₹125 crore by private facilities, have been settled by SAST this financial year so far. With this, 2,61,585 patients have been treated free of cost under AB-ArK this financial year.

As many as 2,75,804 simple secondary general procedures have been performed under AB-ArK this year. This is followed by 97,084 general medicine procedures and 93,058 obstetrics and gynaecology procedures performed in empanelled hospitals.

While emergency medicine and interventional neuroradiology procedures have been the least this year, at 10 and 78 respectively.

A file photo of enrolments being done for providing health card under Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka in Mysuru.

AB-ArK pre-authorisations recorded since inception

2018-2019	68,371 (44,034 government hospitals; 24,337 private hospitals)
2019-2020	5,96,942 (4,95,541 government hospitals; 1,01,401 private hospitals)
2020-2021	8,29,267 (6,45,582 government hospitals; 1,83,685 private hospitals)
2021-2022	13,16,917 (11,31,168 government hospitals and 1,85,749 private hospitals)
2022-2023 (till May)	2,98,855 (2,72,586 government hospitals and 26,269 private hospitals)

The scheme

Arogya Karnataka that was rolled out in March, 2018, was co-branded with Ayushman Bharat on October 30 the same year, after the State signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre. Following the co-branding of the two schemes, the annual health cover (under Arogya Karnataka) of ₹1.5 lakh a year for a BPL family of five, with additional assistance of ₹50,000 in some cases, has been enhanced to ₹5 lakh a year per family in the State.

The integrated scheme covers simple secondary, complex secondary, tertiary, and emergency procedures. Primary treatments and simple secondary procedures are limited only to public health institutions (PHIs).

Complex secondary procedures, tertiary procedures, and emergency procedures are performed in PHIs and empanelled private hospitals.

Of the total 1,55,098 pre-authorisations recorded this financial year, 91.3% are from public health institutions. Bengaluru Urban, Hassan, and Mandya have recorded the highest with 12,404, 10,826, and 10,198, respectively.

Yadgir, Kodagu, and Chickballapur have recorded the lowest with 2,241, 2,245, and 2,309 pre-authorisations respectively.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D., who is also the in-charge Executive Director of SAST, said pre-authorisations have consistently improved this year. "Public health institutions have been the largest contributors. According to our analysis, the performance of private facilities is more only during the peak of the pandemic, except the third wave. Last year, 13 lakh pre-authorisations were recorded and this financial year, in the first two months itself, we have touched 3 lakh cases. We are poised to exceed 15 lakh this financial year," he said.

Pointing out that video-conferences with District Health Officers (DHOs) and District Surgeons are regularly being held since March this year, the Commissioner said, "The district officials are encouraged to ensure more patients are treated under AB-ArK scheme. We review the performance every Tuesday and low performing public facilities are pulled up".

"Public facilities benefit as claim amount flows back to them. Claim funds will be used for upgradation of the public health institutions and strengthening of service delivery," he added.

Coop. society in the dock for cheating investors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The managing director of the State Souharda Federal Cooperative Ltd. has filed a complaint with the Subramanyapura police against board members of Srivaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamitha for allegedly cheating investors.

Based on the complaint by Sharanagouda G. Patil, the police have charged the accused with forgery, cheating, and also under the Karnataka Protection of Interest Depositors in Financial Establishments Act and the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act.

Mr. Patil, in his complaint, said that based on complaints from investors, he had deputed a district convener to probe the matter and submit a report.

The society had sanctioned loans to investors and to firms belonging to the members of the society without following due diligence required to sanction the loan of ₹64.6 crore during 2020-21. Many of the loans have defaulted and the society is unable to recover them. This has a cascading effect on returning the dues to the investors, the complaint said.

An inquiry also revealed the involvement of former directors, CEOs and board members, Mr. Patil said.

COVID-19: 858 new cases in Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday saw 858 new COVID-19 infections, taking the total number of cases to 39,63,633. With this, the day's test positivity rate (TPR) rose to 2.36% and the weekly TPR touched 3.63%.

Of the new cases, 820 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With one death, the State's toll rose to 40,072. Besides this, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded so far.

As many as 682 people were discharged on Thursday, taking the total recoveries to 39,18,452. Active cases stood at 5,067 on Thursday. As many as 36,289 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 29,462 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total rose to 6,68,37,154.

Dialysis patients hit as staff of 122 govt. units strike work

They are seeking restoration of their salaries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Over 4,000 renal patients, undergoing dialysis in 122 government-run units across the State, have been hit following a protest by employees of these units on Thursday.

Demanding restoration of the salaries paid before the transfer of the dialysis scheme, from BRS Health and Research Institute to Kolkata-based ESKAG Sanjeevini Pvt. Ltd. in January this year, over 600 employees, including dialysis technicians, nurses, and 'D' group staff, manning the 122 units, staged a protest in the city on Thursday.

Following this, patients due for dialysis on Thursday either missed the life-saving procedure or were forced to get it done a day before or get it postponed.

> **I have assured them that their demands will be looked into. They want a written assurance and we will give it to them on Friday.**
>
> RANDEEP D.,
> Health Commissioner

Chandrashekar, a technician from H.D. Kote taluk hospital in Mysuru district, said the new agency were paying salaries that were far less than what they were getting earlier.

"I was getting a consolidated monthly salary of close to ₹25,000 earlier. But, after the new agency took over, my salary reduced to ₹13,800. Moreover, the previous agency has not paid our wages for two months (June-July) saying that the Health Department has not cleared their payment," he said. Chetan R., another technician from Hassan, said their other benefits, such as PF and ESI contributions, were also not being paid by the new agency. Moreover, the employees were being transferred arbitrarily.

"We have tried our best to dialyse our patients a day before coming to Bengaluru for the protest. We met Health Commissioner Randeep D. seeking a written assurance. We will be forced to continue the protest on Friday too if we do not get the written assurance," he said.

The Commissioner said he had asked the protesting employees to withdraw the strike in the interest of patients. "I have assured them that their demands will be looked into. They want a written assurance and we will give it to them on Friday," he said.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUN. 24
RISE 05:56 SET 18:49
RISE 02:12 SET 14:58
SATURDAY, JUN. 25
RISE 05:56 SET 18:49
RISE 02:51 SET 15:48
SUNDAY, JUN. 26
RISE 05:56 SET 18:49
RISE 03:33 SET 16:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower is possible.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Glitches in online admission process worry students

'Some are considering shifting to private colleges due to difficulties with Unified University College Management System'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

As the degree admission process begins, many students, especially those who are applying to government colleges, are facing technical glitches and other difficulties using the Unified University College Management System (UUCMS) introduced by the State government.

The system, which was introduced last year, has been made mandatory this year to make all graduate and postgraduate course admissions online through the portal. However, a large number of students across the State are still unaware of the portal.

Although the government said it is mandatory for all institutions to get admissions through the portal, private colleges in the city are conducting the process offline or through their own online portals. •FILE PHOTO

While several private colleges are not depending on the portal for admissions, government colleges have no choice. The technical glitches have delayed the admission process at the government colleges, worrying students. Some of them are also considering joining private colleges while struggling to pay the heavy fees.

"Students are paying and going to cyber cafes to complete admissions as the Internet services provided at government colleges are often slow and inaccessible at times. The moment students enter their Aadhaar number on the portal, the process stops there itself. We have not been able to finish even one admission so far while the private college opposite to us has already finished 200," said the principal of a government college in Bengaluru on the condition of anonymity.

Apart from this, at some government colleges, admission process is being stalled by giving reasons like examination for other batches, students alleged. "The PU results were out and I was quite eager to get admitted to a government college. But when I went to the college, they said that until the examinations for the senior batches are completed, they will not take new admissions," said Amogh, a student in Raichur.

> **Since the II PU results were announced, all the private colleges have initiated admission process, while the unilateral decision of the government to conduct admission process for government degree colleges through UUCMS portal has pushed poor and meritorious students into anxiety.**
>
> AJAY KAMATH,
> State secretary, AIDSO Karnataka chapter

On Thursday, Ajay Kamath, State secretary, AIDSO Karnataka chapter, also issued a statement on the anomalies of the UUCMS portal. He said that the delay in admissions to government colleges is pushing candidates to choose private colleges where admission processes have already begun.

He noted that for those who come from lower economic backgrounds, this will be an additional burden.

"Since the II PU results were announced, all the private colleges have initiated admission process, while the unilateral decision of the government to conduct admission process for government degree colleges through UUCMS portal has pushed poor and meritorious students into anxiety. Due to technical glitches in the UUCMS, admissions to government colleges have not been initiated yet. The AIDSO, in the strongest words, condemns the decision of the government to compulsorily conduct admissions through UUCMS without correcting the software of its glitches," he said.

Meanwhile, although the government said it is mandatory for all institutions to get admissions through the portal, private colleges in Bengaluru are conducting the process offline or through their own online portals. Some are also trying a hybrid approach of letting the students apply through UUCMS if they are aware and willing to, and also through other methods.

"Currently we're trying a blended approach, since applying through the college website has been the convention. So right now, we have the provision to apply through the portal as well," said Dinesh Nilkant, Director of Admissions, Jain University.

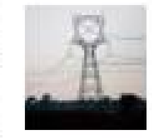
Some students, on the other hand, say they prefer offline admissions as they get to take a look at the amenities offered by the college first hand. Manasa S., a student who had come to BMS College for Women, said, "The offline admission process is much easier as you get to see how the campus looks and also there is some kind of transparency in the process."

Department officials were not available for comment.

Intermittent power supply tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be intermittent power supply on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the areas serviced from 220/66/11-kV Hoodi Station in view of maintenance/repair works.



According to a release from Bescom, East Circle, the areas to be affected are G.C. Palya, Mahadevapura, Graphite Road, Hoodi, Seetharampalya, Rajpalya, Thigalarapalya, and Singayanapalya.

BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL FAMILY COURT MANGALURU
M.C.No.32/2022
Between,
Mrs. Letilia Pinto - Petitioner
AND
Dr. Generio Francis Hilary Fernandes - Respondent
To,
Dr. Generio Francis Hilary Fernandes
S/o Francis X.S. Fernandes
Ages 66 years
R/at 211, Vivek Nagar
2nd Cross, 14th Street
Bengaluru-47
Take notice that the above named Petitioner has filed this Matrimonial case against you as per MC No. 32/2022 and as the summons could not be served to you, the court has ordered service by publication. If you desire to contest the case you are hereby informed that you may appear personally or through a duly instructed advocate on 13-7-2022 at 11 am. If you fail to appear on the stated date and time, the court will note your absence and will proceed to decide this case in your absence. Given under my hand and seal this 7th day of June 2022 at Mangaluru.
(By Order of the Court)
Sd/-, **Praveen Pinto**
Advocate for Petitioners
Sd/-, **SHERISTEDAR**
Sr. Civil Judge & Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Mangaluru.

NLSIU questioned over handling of student facilitators

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Around 200 alumni of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, have written an open letter questioning the institution, for allegedly initiating disciplinary action against two female student facilitators, for sharing details about sexual harassment by a student of the university against an outsider. The letter also placed several demands before NLSIU to provide more support to survivors of sexual assault.

According to an alumnus who spoke to *The Hindu*, a person (not a student), who was allegedly sexually assaulted by a student of the NLSIU, reached out to the two student SHIC (Sexual Harassment Inquiry Committee) facilitators in March.

"The victim was trying to explore her options with regards to filing a police complaint or initiating formal proceedings at NLSIU. As she was not a student and was not sure about initiating action, she decided to alert the NLSIU community about the perpetrator through internal emails and social media pages. She asked the facilitators to do the same on her behalf," said Mukta Joshi, from the class of 2019, NLSIU.

She added that the student facilitators then approached the Sexual Harassment Policy Advisor, who was also a faculty member, who told them to use their discretion and did not raise any objections. Hence, the students went ahead and shared the name of the alleged perpetrator and the details of the assault on emails and the Facebook group.

After this, the alleged perpetrator filed a disciplinary complaint against the student facilitators. Taking cognisance of it, the university initiated proceedings and found the facilitators guilty of "major misconduct", the alumni said.

"As a penalty, NLSIU directed that they either issue a public apology or pay a significant monetary fine," said the letter, adding that they chose to pay the fine.

The student facilitators have now appealed to the Executive Council of NLSIU as the next course of action, according to sources.

Responding to the allegations, NLSIU, in a long statement on Thursday, said the open letter "misrepresents the action taken by the university against the students as a failure to take sexual harassment seriously."

"In fact, the action was taken against the students for their failure to adhere to the 'NLSIU's Principles of Conduct, 2002,' and 'NLSIU's IT Policies'," said the statement, adding, "the student facilitators are bound to maintain confidentiality of the parties involved throughout the course of the complaint process, whether or not it results in formal proceedings before the SHIC".

"The student facilitators have bypassed the sexual harassment mechanisms provided by the university. The university takes matters of sexual harassment very seriously. NLSIU has never prevented its students from discussing issues of sexual harassment. However, to use NLSIU digital resources to publicly name someone in a matter that would be prejudicial to that person's reputation is not conducive to the kind of community living that we would like to nurture at NLSIU," the statement added.

Mysore Silk
KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586399 Fax: 080-25587020, Email: info@ksicsilk.com
No:KSIC/PD/LB-01/2022-23 **Date:21.06.2022**
Tender for Manufacturing and Supply of 275 Nos of Leather Shopping Carry Bags
Sealed and superscribed tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturers for supply of **275 Nos. of Leather Shopping Carry Bags** to KSIC Reshmalaya Godown, Bengaluru.
The tender document may be obtained from General Manager (Procurement) either in person or by post on payment of Rs.200/- by cash/DD. Last date and time for submission of the tender along with **EMD of Rs. 9,900/-** for Leather Shopping Carry Bags within **25.07.2022 up to 3.00 P.M.** The Technical bids will be opened on **26.07.2022 at 11.00 A.M.** Further details can be had from office of the Undersigned during working hours either personally or over phone on mobile No.9663739373.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/Jagadale Advertising/1032/2022-23 **GENERAL MANAGER(Proc)**
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division,,Shikaripura.
Short Term Tender Notification-04/22-23 Date:20.06.2022
(Single Tender Document & Only Through e-Procurement)
On behalf of the Hon'ble Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bengaluru, Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., Dandavati Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura invites Tender through e-procurement in Single Tender Document System from contractors of KPWD Class-III & above & KPWD Class-IV & above (Only SC Category contractors should participate for Sl. No. 1).
Amount put to Tender for various development works in the limits of Shikaripura and Soraba Taluks From Rs. 49.80 lakhs to Rs. 23.35 lakhs & E.M.D. Amount from Rs. 0.50 lakhs to Rs. 0.25 lakhs.
1) Date for participating in the tender: From 22.06.2022 to 30.06.2022 up to 5.00 PM. 2) Last date for Tender clarifications: 29.06.2022 up to 5.00 PM. 3) Date of opening the Financial Bid: 07.07.2022 at 11.00 AM.
For further information visit (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) or contact the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L.,
Dandavati Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.
DIPR/smg/no.120/06/22-23/460

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/1560 DATE: 22/06/2022
Short Term E-Tender Notification
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 2 works under head of account 5054-5H Improvements. Amount put to tender is Rs. 263.16 Lakhs and Rs. 87.72 Lakhs respectively.
Calendar of events : 1)Pre-bid meeting date:27-06-2022 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 29-06-2022 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 01-07-2022 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 04-07-2022 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"
For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.
Sd/-Executive Engineer
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-397/MCA/2022-23 **PWD Division Chikkodi.**

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic Commercial Department, Central Office, 2nd Floor, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.
No.: BMTC:CO:TR:COM:1062:2022-23 Date: 22.06.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION No.07/2022-23 (e-Procurement Platform)
Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers/bids from the interested Persons on monthly license fee basis for running General stalls at various Bus Stations, Commercial/Office space at Shanthinagar TTMC 'B' Block, Two & Four Wheeler Parking Space at Vijayanagar TTMC Bus station. And invites bids for allotment of 2-BHK flats at Ebony St.Johns Woods Apartment at Koramangala (Tavarekere Road) for residential purpose through e-procurement platform. Last date & time for submission of bids is on **13.07.2022 up to 12:00 hrs.** Opening of Financial bids is on **15.07.2022 at 12:30 hrs.** Details for Rent, EMD & Area etc log on to: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** & Contact no: 080-23010900 /23010901 /22371090 /22340060 /22340948 or 7760991026 & 7760991222. E-mail: **ctmo@mybmtc.com.**
Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054-3054/2022-23/ 01108 Dated:21.06.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)
The- Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) for 18 works as per standard bid documents KW-3 with Different head of accounts costing of amount for Rs. 70.00 Lakhs to Rs. 100.00 Lakhs respectively, the EMD amount of Rs.1,40,000.00 to 2,00,000.00 for the works. For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows **1)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **Date-04-07-2022 upto 4.30 PM. 2)** Opening of Technical Bid **Date-06-07-2022 at 11.00 AM. 3)** Opening of Financial Bid **Date-07-07-2022 at 11.00 AM.** Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/VIJAYAPUR/177/MCA/2022-23 **PWD Division, Vijayapur**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES, (Institute of National Importance)
BANGALORE 560029 (Purchase Section) Ph: 080-26995010/5011
No.: NIMH/PRO/AUCTION/CONDEMN. VEHICLES/2022 Date: 24.06.2022
QUOTATION-CUM-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
Sealed Tenders/Quotations are invited from public for disposal of condemned vehicles "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION".

Sl. No.	Vehicle Number	Model
1	KA05-AA-3714 (MAHENDRA BUS)	MARCH 2007
2	KA05-AA-3715 (MAHENDRA BUS)	MARCH 2007

The Tender applications may be obtained from the Public Relation Office, NIMHANS from **27.06.2022** to **30.06.2022** between 10:00 am to 04:00 pm on payment of Rs.1,000/- (non-refundable). The Tenders have to enclose a Security deposit of Rs.20,000/- in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of Director, NIMHANS along with the sealed Quotation/Tender. The bidders can inspect the items in any working day between 27.06.2022 to 30.06.2022.
The Quotations are to be submitted on or before **04.07.2022 @ 4:30 pm**. The sealed Quotations are to be addressed to the Registrar, NIMHANS, along with the Security Deposit to be put in the Tender Box kept near Registrar's Office.
The Quotations will be opened on **05.07.2022** at **11:00 am** in the Committee Room, Adjacent to Registrar's Office. The auction among the qualified tenderers will also be held on the same day. The Director, NIMHANS, reserves the right to accept or reject any/ all the tenders/ bids without assigning any reasons.
Sd/-, REGISTRAR

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಕನನೀಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒಚ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಜಲಭವನ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಪಿ-4, 10ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ,
3ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸರಸ್ವತಿ ಪುರಂ, ಮೈಸೂರು-09.
ದೂ.0821-2543552 **E-Mail: kwbmysdiv@gmail.com**
ಪತ್ರ ಸಂ: ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಜಮಂ/ಕಾಅ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಸಅ-1/687/2022-23
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.06.2022
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯ ಅಗತ್ಯತೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೃಪ್ತಿಕರವಾಗಿ ಪೂರೈಸಿರುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಐಟಂರೇಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: KUWSDB/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT3164
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಇಲವಾಲ ಮತ್ತು ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲ 52 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ 2022-23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಬಲಮುರಿ ಪಂಪ್ ಹೌಸ್, ಅರೋಕ ಪಂಪ್ ಹೌಸ್, ಫೀಡರ್ ಮೇನ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು WTP ನ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆ, ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ.76.57 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. **ಬಿಡ್ ಭದ್ರತೆ:** ರೂ.1,53,000/-. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣ ಶುಲ್ಕ:** ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಂತೆ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಸೂಚಿ: 1) ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 04.07.2022ರ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.07.2022 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ರ ಮೇಲೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಳ ಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯ ವಾಣಿ ಅಥವಾ E-Mail: kwbmysdiv@gmail.com ಅಥವಾ ಫೋನ್ ನಂಬರ್ 0821-2543552 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಕ.ನ.ನೀ.ಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/135/2022-23

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES MANDYA
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone: 08232-231003, 222086, 231197, 224040, Fax: 08232-231001
E-Mail Address: mimsmandyaoffice@gmail.com , mimsmandya@gmail.com
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
TWO COVER BID SYSTEM
Ref No: MIMS/Sup(2)/E-tender/ Sutures /03/22-23 Dated:20.06.2022
Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mandya, invites E-tender for Supply of Sutures, Ointments, syrups & others items to the Teaching Hospital of MIMS Mandya from the Manufacture/s or Authorized Dealers in two cover bid system as per The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 and Rules thereunder. The Approximate Tender cost is (1) Schedule-A Suture materials **Rs.102.00 Lakhs,** EMD Amount of **Rs.1,53,000/-** (2) Schedule-B Syrups & Ointments Rs.69.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount of **Rs.1,38,000/-** & (3) Schedule-C Microbiology & Pathology dept items Rs.24.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount of Rs.48,000/-. Submission of E-Tender by paying Non refundable Fees starts from **20.06.2022** and the last date for filing of Tenders is **05.07.2022** up to **5.30 P.M.** For details, see e-procurement portal website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details and clarifications in this regard office of the Director, Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya may be contacted during working hours (Except General Holidays)
Sd/-Director,
Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya,
DIPR/AD-MDY/MC&A/131/2022-23

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ)
ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
ದೂ.: 08226-223761, 08226-222831, Fax : 08226-223180
Email : dudcchamarajanagar@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಚಾಜನಕೋ/ಮು.ಅ.ನ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ)ಯೋ/ಹಂತ-4/ಸಿಆರ್/218/2021-22
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17-06-2022
ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಮೃತ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ) ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಂತ-4 ರಡಿ ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಯಳಂದೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಹನೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಚರಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 04-06-2022 ರಂದು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 1) ಯಳಂದೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಳೆನೀರು ಚರಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132036 ಮತ್ತು 2) ಹನೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಳೆನೀರು ಚರಂಡಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132038ರ ಎರಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ : 3.3 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ವಾಹನ / ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ವಿಧಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತಿನಿಂದ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಉಳಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ 04-06-2022ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
[illegible]/127/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಜಿ.ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ.ಧಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ.1/2022-23 /845 ದಿ:22-06-2022
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ - 3/2022-23 (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ No.FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, dated: 15-09-2017 ರನ್ವಯ **2021-22 ನೇ** ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ **ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ **KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4** ರಲ್ಲಿಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.
Indent No : 88676/ Call-3, 88846/ Call-3, 88830/Call-3, 88833/ Call-3, 88363/ Call-4, 88598/ Call-3, 88834/ Call-2, 88592/ Call-3, 88585/ Call-3, 88368/ Call-2, 89495/ Call-2, 89496/ Call-3, 89478/ Call-2, 89250/ Call-2, 90828, 90829, 90090.
SC Category : 88370/Call-2 ಶ್ಯೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಆಫ್ ಇವೆಂಟ್:
(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23-06-2022** ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **08-07-2022** ರ ಸಂಜೆ **4.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. (2) ಪ್ರಿ-ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **29-06-2022** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **11-07-2022** ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.30** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. (4) ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: 9,12,13 ಹಾಗೂ 14 ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13-07-2022** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.30** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ.
ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಯಮ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ/EMD ಮೊತ್ತ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/-([illegible])
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
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In August 2019, the Karnataka High Court declared that the right to have reasonably good footpaths and roads is a fundamental right of citizens under Article 21.

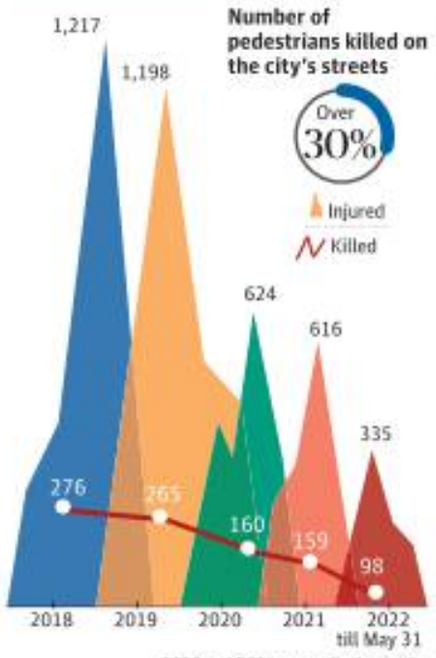
FOOTPATHS ARE A MAJOR PAIN POINT FOR CITIZENS

City Politics Survey by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy in June, 2022, said citizens, across classes, underlined need for better footpaths. About 23% flagged lack of good pedestrian facilities.

From 2017-18 to 2022-23, about 25% of all inputs by citizens during the Janaagraha's BBMP My City My Budget Campaign concerned footpaths. As many as 27,186 of 1,10,355 inputs pertained to footpaths.

A study by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, submitted in March, 2021, to High Court revealed citizens had flagged 5,435 issues, of which 4,998 (92%) were regarding bad footpaths.

Number of pedestrians killed on the city's streets

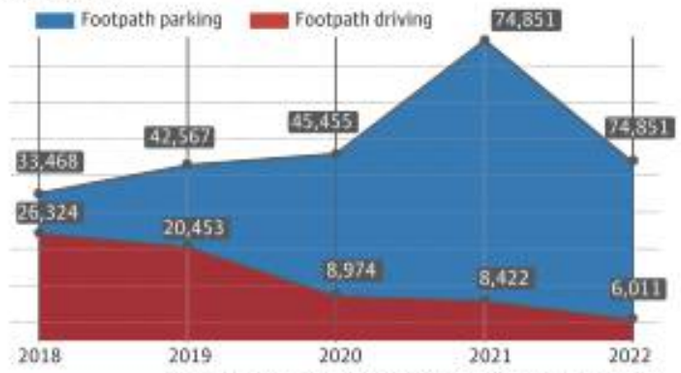


2020 and 2021 saw a dip due to the pandemic-induced lockdowns

ISSUES FACED ON THE CITY'S FOOTPATHS

- Obstructions such as shops putting up seating and advertisement boards, trees, bus stops, parked vehicles, two-wheeler riders on footpaths, construction debris, telecom cables, street vendors, access ramps put up by property owners.
- Uneven surfaces, open drains, missing pavement tiles, slippery footpaths during rains
- Very narrow footpaths
- Footpaths of adjoining and connected streets not at the same level
- No common design for footpaths across the city

VIOLATIONS



*2020 and 2021 saw a dip due to the pandemic-induced lockdowns

THERE ARE BETTER PAVEMENTS ON ROADS DEVELOPED UNDER

TenderSURE: 29 roads — 32.7 km

Smart City: 32 roads — 59 km

GUIDELINES FOR FOOTPATHS AS PER INDIAN ROAD CONGRESS

Adjoining land use	Residential	Neighbourhood-level commercial street	City-level commercial street, high street, shopping street
Minimum pedestrian/ walking zone width (in metres) (a)	2	2.5	2
Minimum dead/frontage zone for shops, properties width (in metres) (b)	0.5	1.0	2
Minimum multi-utility zone width (in metres) (c)	2	1	2
Total width of the footpath = a+b+c (in metres)	4.5 (for a 15-m-wide road with 6 m undivided carriageway)	5.5 (for a 18-m-wide road with 7 m undivided carriageway)	7 (for a 21-m-wide road with 7 m undivided carriageway)

Frontage/dead zone: In front of shops, properties for their access. About 0.5 m in front of residences and 1 m in front of shops recommended

Pedestrian way: It must be clear of any obstructions. A minimum of 2-m-wide walking zone to ensure two wheelchairs can pass each other must be provided

Surface: Footpath surface should be even, firm, free from cracks, and well-drained. Surface should be of anti-skid material

Continuity: Footpaths should continue at the same level across side streets and property entrances

▸GRAPHICS: SHARATH RAM

Obstacles galore for pedestrians

Absence of footpaths or uneven sidewalks, parked vehicles, encroachments by shopkeepers and hawkers, construction debris — these are among the problems that confront pedestrians in Bengaluru

Sorry state: Pavements along most of the roads in Bengaluru do not provide continuous walkway for pedestrians, forcing them to walk on roads and risk their lives.

•BHAGYA PRAKASH K., SUDHAKARA JAIN, AND ADITHI HOLLA

Street vendors – a contentious issue

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Street vendors on pedestrian pathways have been a contentious issue, often bringing to fore class divisions and their perceptions. The traffic police are carrying out a footpath encroachment clearance drive across the city, as part of which they have got several street vendors to vacate their vending spots, drawing the ire of vendors and activists alike.

"We street vendors are not encroachers. We rightfully claim that space and have all legal rights under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. The BBMP has not implemented the Act in spirit, which if done so, will demarcate vending zones. The civic body is duty-bound to provide infrastructure and integrate vending zones into the footpaths," said S. Babu, president, Federation of Street Vendors' Associations in Bengaluru District. It is a common misconception that city streets do not have enough space; the real problem is that we have not allocated this space in an equitable manner, said Priyanka Sulkan, an expert on Sustainable Cities and Transport at WRI India. She said street activities like commercial street vending contribute greatly to a city's daily functioning and suggested that they be accommodated in multi-utility zones.

SAMHITHA B.S.
ADITHI HOLLA
BENGALURU

Walking on the footpaths in Bengaluru is a delicate balancing act that often throws one's life and limb at risk.

Lack of footpaths or uneven sidewalks, open drains, piled up construction debris, vehicles parked or even zooming on pavements, telecom cables strewn around, and encroachments by shops and hawkers... There seems to be no end to obstacles on the footpaths.

Pedestrian deaths

This often pushes pedestrians to the roads, risking their lives, which is evident in the high number of pedestrian deaths in road accidents every year – 98 killed and 335 injured this year till May 31. The ongoing Namma Metro and several other civic works across the city have shrunk pedestrian facilities further.

In August 2019, the High Court declared that the right to have reasonably good footpaths and roads is a fundamental right of citizens under Article 21.

Indian Road Congress (IRC) norms stipulate a clear walking path 1.8 metres wide and 2.2 metres high without any obstacles. But hardly will we find stretches of footpath adhering to these norms, except on TenderSURE roads in the central business district.

The sorry state of footpaths is a top concern of the people. For instance, a survey on city politics conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy revealed that lack of footpaths and pedestrian facilities dominate the concerns of citizens across the city, cutting across all classes. In March 2021, the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority's (KSLSA) report submitted to the High Court of Karnataka revealed that citizens had flagged 5,435 issues, of which a mere 437 were regarding potholes and bad roads and an overwhelming 4,998 (92%) were regarding bad footpaths in the city. The KSLSA report also showed the fast-developing outer zones of Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli, apart from the East zone, which has also seen rapid development in recent years, reported the most number of footpath issues.

"With most roads dug up for civic works, there seems to be no concept of a road at all in our areas, especially when it rains, leave alone footpaths. We have protested multiple times, planting saplings on the roads," rued Jagadish Reddy, a resident of Varthur. In the recent survey by Janaagraha, Varthur ward scored 0/100 for walkability. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board has been laying drinking water pipes and underground drainage lines in the outer zones and even after they complete their work, the civic body is slow to redo those roads.

Metro work hurdles

But other areas fare no better. For instance, with the ongoing metro construction near the Central Silk Board, there is scarcely a stretch of walkable footpath. Pedestrians walk gingerly on roads as heavy-duty vehicles move past them. Tangavelu, a shopkeeper, recalled the construction having started around five years ago. "Accidents are common," he said. Ramya S., recalled an accident in the area. "An old man was hit by a passing vehicle just he got down from an auto. This could have been avoided if the pavements in the area had been fixed," she said.

Bad pavements invariably affect vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, children, and the poor, who predominantly walk to commute more than others. The pavements around Jayanagar's Madhavan Park are uneven and are occupied by parked vehicles and commercial establishments. They remain inaccessible to senior citizens and children. Despite several complaints, no action has been taken against such encroachments, said Shekar B.S., a volunteer from the Jayanagar Madhavan Park Volunteer Group.

The needs of senior citizens, pregnant women or children are not kept in mind while constructing pavements, said Lekha Adavi, an advocate and urban activist. Senior citizens struggle to get on and off Bengaluru's footpaths. With no ramps, splintered stones, and inadequate pedestrian signals, footpaths in the city are not friendly for the differently abled either, she pointed out.

Adding to these woes are endless encroachments of footpaths – construction debris, commercial establishments putting out tables, advertisement boards, street vendors, among others. In 2021, the High Court had directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to set into motion criminal action under various laws for encroaching footpaths and clear them. The civic body and Bengaluru City Traffic Police have carried out drives to remove encroachments, illegal cables, parked vehicles, and street vendors, and have often run into controversies.

Vehicles parked on footpaths and two-wheeler riders riding on pavements continue to pose a threat to pedestrians.

So far this year, the traffic police have booked 42,810 cases for parking vehicles on footpaths and 6,011 cases for riding on footpaths.

Violation by property owners

There are also several cases of property owners encroaching upon footpaths. Many building owners build ramps for their vehicles to get in and out of their property, creating obstacles for pedestrians. These essentially cut off the contiguity of walkable footpaths, making it difficult particularly for the elderly and the differently abled.

IRC guidelines provide for 0.5-1 metres of space for property access and stipulate at least 1.8-metre wide walkway for pedestrians beyond that. However, with narrow footpaths across the city, the guidelines are rarely followed.

Is decentralised planning the way forward?

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Any talk of better pedestrian pathways in Bengaluru invariably leads to TenderSURE roads – known for their wide and well-maintained footpaths. The network of 29 TenderSURE roads – totalling 32.7 km – and 32 roads developed under the Smart City project as per TenderSURE specifications – totalling 59 km – has definitely improved walkability in the central business district area.

However, is the TenderSURE model feasible to be replicated across the city is the moot question. "TenderSURE model, though costly, is worth replicating in wide arterial roads and shopping streets across the city. However, what is needed the most is restoring footpaths even on inner roads, without which commuters cannot make a trip on their feet. We need to ensure better contiguous footpaths from their homes to transport hubs such as Namma Metro stations and back to prompt people to make short walk trips. That is the challenge today," a senior civic official said.

The city's civic body and several urban activists believe that local decentralised planning by empowered ward committees is the way ahead. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) allocated ₹60 lakh for every ward committee in 2021-22, of which ₹20 lakh was earmarked for footpath works, and this has been increased to ₹1 crore and ₹30 lakh, respectively, in the 2022-23 civic budget. The civic body aims to create 1,000 km of walkable footpaths every year under the initiative.

"Many ward committees have gone to the extent of passing resolutions in their meetings and getting to the stage of tenders for footpath works with the money allocated for 2021-22. The ward committees are able to make an informed choice and will be able to create walkable footpaths in the wards," said Srinivas Alavilli, head, Civic Participation, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said the civic boday was also redeveloping footpaths on priority wherever they take up roadworks under the Nagarothana Scheme. "Developing a footpath doesn't guarantee its use to pedestrians. We need to maintain it and ensure it is free of encroachments. I have asked civic officials to mercilessly remove encroachments on all footpaths that have been developed and are fit for pedestrian use. We will remove encroachments in phases as we develop those roads and footpaths," he said.

Actor Madhavan turns director with his latest passion project, a biopic on former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan

The man who loved rockets

The right science Madhavan; (inset) with Simran in *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

:: SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM

Filmmaking is not rocket science. Except, for Madhavan, it was.

Between spoonfuls of soup at lunch inside his caravan at Chennai's Prasad Labs, Madhavan, popularly known as Maddy, dressed in a red shirt and a crisp *veshti*, recalls the chain of events that led to his upcoming debut directorial, *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*.

"I had not directed even an iPhone film till now. I have never gone for an edit. I have worked with great directors, but all I have done was my job as an actor."

That had to change for his upcoming project, where the 52-year-old took charge. With just a few weeks to go for shooting to begin, director Ananth Mahadevan opted out due to other commitments, leaving Madhavan with two options: shelve the project or take charge.

He decided to go for the latter. " Direction was thrust upon me 25 days before the shoot. The desire to tell the story pushed me to keep going."

For *Rocketry*, I needed to get into Nambi's way of thinking, understand what all he went through, and how he kept his sanity despite everything

Space and time

Rocketry: The Nambi Effect is probably Madhavan's biggest project till date. It premiered recently at Cannes 2022 as part of the Market section. A couple of weeks ago, the trailer was showcased on the Nasdaq billboard at Times Square, New York.

The film, a biopic on former scientist and aerospace engineer at Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Nambi Narayanan, will be in English, Tamil and Hindi. It showcases how he was falsely accused of espionage and subsequently, how all cases against him were dismissed by the Supreme Court.

The film hits screens on July 1, but its journey goes back to more than five years when the actor and the scientist met to discuss a possible film project. "I went to meet him (Nambi) with a very shallow James Bond-style idea that I am very ashamed of now. Someone told me of a rocket scientist from ISRO who had an affair with a Maldivian woman, was then arrested, tortured, and subsequently proved innocent."

When Madhavan met the scientist in Thiruvananthapuram, he realised he was reading it wrong. "There was far more depth to the man. He had done so much for the nation, including building the first liquid engine in India, but just didn't care to tell anyone. It gave me goosebumps, because I realised, as he told me his life story, that he had put his life at stake on a daily basis. The rush I got that day has not gone away."

The meeting sowed the seed for a film that became Madhavan's passion project. "We have had great, big-budget films on our fight for Independence, but have completely missed out on the amazing scientific achievements of this country."

The film did not come together without challenges. For starters, Madhavan had to look like both the younger and the older Nambi Narayanan. How did he go about that? "I actually broke my jaw to play the part." Madhavan shares a short video of the process. "The teeth play a vital part in how old or young you look."

Looking like the scientist was one thing, the next challenge was to get into his mind. "I needed to get into his way of thinking, understand what he went through, and how he kept his sanity despite everything. I would call him in the middle of the night to ask questions, and he patiently answered all of them."

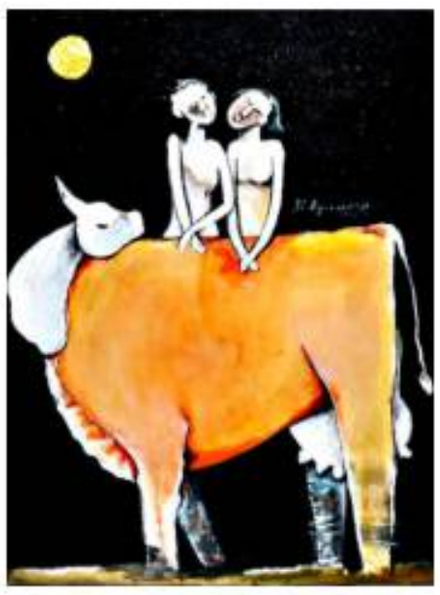
Search for stories

A younger Madhavan might have depended on his boy-next-door good looks and smile to draw audiences, but not anymore. At 52, Maddy is not in the mood for romance-driven storylines. "Well, I was out of place even when I was doing *Alaipayuthe* and *Minnale*, in my 30s. Looking at some of my work then, I am shocked I survived, because my clothes are out of place and my hair is terrible. Stardom was thrust upon me back then."

His go-to cinematic themes, currently, are science-fiction subjects that intellectually stimulate the viewer and highlight the nation's achievements. "I'm tired of people showcasing India in a particular manner in films. I want to make quality films that diversify the way India is seen around the world. Hopefully, *Rocketry* will be a step towards that."

Remember the time

Singapore-based artist P Gnana talks about his solo show which opens in Bengaluru this weekend



:: RUTH DHANARAJ

The nostalgia of childhood, the quiet beauty of pastoral life and the timelessness of a mother's love have been artist P Gnana's constant muse, evolving over the years to go beyond the obvious into a more metaphysical dimension.

"I am close to my mom and growing up in my hometown of Neyveli, I would see her go about her chores. We had cows at home and my fascination with these gentle creatures began then. These recollections came back to me when I was working on relationship-based paintings," he says, adding that in Singapore, he is known as 'the artist who paints cows.'

An artist for 25 years, Gnana not only paints but also sculpts, creating figurines and installations using recycled material. With time, his work has become known for the use of industrial material alongside conventional media such as bronze and canvas.

"I don't restrict myself to one medium and enjoy experimenting. I don't buy my raw material at art supply stores either – I go to hardware stores. and cosmetic shops to source equipment, colours and tones. Since I like to try new methods, I prefer to mix media for my creations – paper, enamel paints and sand – to bring texture to my collages," says the artist, who adds that he is constantly in search of the unusual, hoping something better comes out of his paintings.

Universal appeal P Gnana and his art • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gnana says his work is minimalistic and does not follow realistic form. "There won't be any detailed features in the faces seen in my paintings. The eyes are mostly closed to hold one's attention and though there is no eye contact, the painting still has emotional depth. I leave it to the viewers to interpret what the subjects are feeling."

"Though I am inspired by my surroundings, I don't portray them as such. I nurture them in my mind and heart, delivering them in my own language as a minimalised subject. Not as an exact replica, but my version of life and love."

Originally from Neyvelli in Tamil Nadu, Gnana is a mechanical engineer who gave up his profession and took up a formal education in art from the LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore.

For his series 'Unconditional Love,' Gnana has used a lot of fabric and paper on canvas to create a layered effect with oil and acrylic paints. "To seal the work I use Vietnamese lacquer which is used in art work to give a clear, glass-like finish."

While 'Unconditional Love' is primarily about the bond between a mother and child, it is also about relationships. "Lovers, husbands, wives, parents, brothers and sisters, family – basically my work centres around relationships.

'Unconditional Love' comprises 30 paintings besides sculptures which will be on display and sale at Art Houz, Bengaluru from June 24-30.

When compassion meets grit

Watch Dr Nagesh: The Stigma and Realities of Living with HIV, directed by Vincent Detours and Dominique Henry

:: SHILPA ANANDRAJ

Presenting reality on screen The filmmakers and the poster of the film • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FRIDAY REVIEW

SHOW-TIME

Vincent works as an associate professor and researcher in bioinformatics and cancer biology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles

Dominique, who graduated from INSAS a Belgian film school, works as a cameraman

What happens when a scientist, passionate about research and a filmmaker get together? They create stories documenting real life journeys.

That is exactly what happened when Vincent Detours met Dominique Henry, a filmmaker. The two Belgians have made eight films so far including *Bombay Workers*. *Dr Nagesh*, which is set in Mumbai chronicles the life of the titular doctor who works with HIV and AIDS patients. Co-produced by Good and Bad News and the Brussels Audiovisual Centre, it is written and directed by Detours and Henry. The story revolves around the trauma and stigma AIDS patients go through. While some abandon their wives, others continue to live with and infect their spouses.

The gut-wrenching film captures hard-hitting reality with its cinematography. Emotions are captured in a patient's hands, drooping shoulders or torn shoes. Visuals are stirring – be it a pregnant woman infected with HIV, or a three-year-old girl who comes for testing. It shows how Dr Nagesh and his team ease the suffering of the patients by treating them at his clinic and making house calls.

Detours says they were working on another documentary on HIV drugs in 2000. "It was a time when India was making headway in creating effective drugs to fight HIV. We came to India then to visit drug industries and met Dr Nagesh. He was so inspiring that we decided to make a film about him." A scientist and a specialist in cancer research, Detours says he took to filmmaking out of passion. "We started off wanting to make a scientific film about HIV drugs. We switched track when we realised that not many could afford or have access to HIV drugs as at that time it was one of the most expensive drugs." The duo stayed in India for four years. "We shot at his work place and ended up with seven hours of footage. It took us a year to make *Dr Nagesh*."

Dr Nagesh will be screened at Vikalp on June 24 at 6.30 pm at Bangalore International Centre (BIC).

Creative residency

Max Mueller Bhavan's bangaloREsidency- Expanded Showcase will present the works of 14 Indian artists, who completed artist residencies in Germany in 2019, 2021 and 2022. The event will be held on June 25 and 26 at Max Mueller Bhavan, from noon to 8 pm. The aim of this initiative is to establish long-term artistic exchange in a sustainable format that intensifies creative exchange of collaboration.
There will be artworks and installations, sound and dance performances.
Entry is free, log on to goethe.de/bangalore for details

Hercules and the cardboard box

Bookchor's 'LockTheBox Reloaded' is a book sale that will be held in Bengaluru from June 25 June July 3, from 9am to 10pm. There will be a collection of 10 lakh books in the genres of fiction, non-fiction, crime, romance, books for young adults and children, adventure, science fiction. You pay for a box and take home as many books as you can fit into it. The boxes come in the options of The Odysseus (₹ 1199), The Perseus (₹ 1799) and The Hercules (₹ 2999).
The venue will be Shubh Convention, Puttenahalli, Phase 7, JP Nagar.

Theatre fest for children

Ranga Shankara presents AHA! International Theatre Festival for Children 2022.
This will be held between June 26 and 30 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.
The fest brings theatre in all its aspects to children, showcasing national and international productions to young audiences of Bengaluru.
This year's line-up includes five different productions – from Germany, Switzerland, South Korea and two from India, one of which is a Ranga Shankara production.
Visit bookmyshow and the box office for tickets.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 24, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- Pakistan's economic muddling and the IMF challenge bit.ly/3nd70ul
- Open network for digital commerce bit.ly/3QHwJsm
- Musical biopics: When box office and critics go ka-chung! bit.ly/3bhuyvr

Online exclusives

The Hindu Science Quiz bit.ly/3yd4nzc

A first-person account of Assam floods: The day a town drowned bit.ly/3xOsHGa

PODCAST

Women Uninterrupted

- An inter-generational podcast of women of different age groups engaged in difficult but important conversations. Episode 3 of this five-part series features a teenager discussing dating rules with her mother. This series from *The Hindu* is brought to you by BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd.

- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.*

Cong. made textbook changes to appease minorities: Govt.

Four Ministers say revision by previous govt. 'insulted' Hindu gods and rulers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The BJP government in Karnataka on Thursday countered allegations made by the Opposition leaders, seers, and leaders of various communities on revised school textbooks and said the previous Congress government had made additions and deletions for "appeasement of minority communities."

The government claimed that the earlier revision had "insulted" Hindu gods, Hindu rulers, rulers of Vijayanagara empire, Wadiyars of Mysuru, poet Kuvempu, Bengaluru founder Kempe Gowda, and Diwan of Mysuru Sir M. Visvesvaraya by removing chapters or reducing text related to them in textbooks.

A team of four Cabinet <inisters belonging to different communities, led by Revenue Minister R. Ashok, defended the revision of textbooks by a committee headed by Rohith Chakrathirtha and said the revised textbooks would be distributed to students in the next few days with a list of seven-eight corrections on architect of the Constitution Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, social reformer Basavanna, and Kuvempu.

Ministers R. Ashok, Shivaram Hebbar, Byrathi Basavaraj, and C.C. Patil addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Magnified achievements'

They lashed out at the Siddaramaiah-led government for introduction of textbooks revised by writer Baragur Ramachandrappa and "magnifying" the achievements of Muslim rulers belonging to Mughal dynasty as well as Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, all to appease minorities.

They alleged that some Kannada writers with a "hidden agenda" had prepared the textbooks then and removed all chapters linked to Rama and the Hindu religion. Chapters such as "Anale" in Ramayana Darshanam and "Ajjayyana Abhyanjana", both by Kuvempu, were dropped. Many chapters and texts related to Indian rulers, included when Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri was the Education Minister, had been removed by the Congress government, they said.

Presenting a document running to over 100 pages related to the revision of textbooks, Mr. Ashok said the Siddaramaiah-led government propagated Communist ideology and deleted or reduced texts related to deity Chamundeshwari, Kempe Gowda and his contributions to Bengaluru, Kuvempu, the Vijayanagara empire, Hindu rulers Shivaji, Rajputs. He said photographs of temples of Mathura and Somnath, slavery during the Khilji dynasty, reading of Gita by Mahatma Gandhi in Kolkata to contain communal violence during partition had also been deleted. In the long list of inclusions made now, Mr. Ashok mentioned among other things chapters on RSS founder K.B. Hedgewar, Hindu monk and philosopher Swami Vivekananda, Sanathana Dharma, Karkota dynasty of Kashmir, Ahom dynasty of Assam, Maratha ruler Shivaji, Prithviraj Chauhan, chapter on "Bharathiyate" (Indianness) and local festivals and yoga.

The Ministers said the revisions done during the previous Congress regime had praised the achievements of Tipu Sultan in six to seven pages. "We included a chapter on Tipu Sultan with reduced text," said Mr. Ashok. The Congress government reduced chapters/poems of Kuvempu from eight to seven. But the BJP government has increased them to 10 now, he added. "Our government included a separate chapter on Kempe Gowda and his contributions to Bengaluru, which had been deleted by the Baragur Ramachandrappa panel," he said.

150 mistakes

The Ministers claimed that the textbooks revised by the Baragur Ramachandrappa panel had committed more than 150 mistakes. Later, booklets containing corrections were distributed to students. The writers had not questioned then, he said. "Why do writers adopt such double standards now?" he asked. Labour Minister Shivaram Hebbar, Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj, PWD Minister C.C. Patil accompanied Mr. Ashok at the press conference.

Shivakumar criticised for tearing book

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A Vokkaliga face of the ruling BJP, Revenue Minister R. Ashok criticised KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar for "insulting" Bengaluru founder Kempe Gowda and poet Kuvempu, both belonging to the Vokkaliga community, by tearing a copy of a revised textbook at a protest. During the protest in the city last week, Mr. Shivakumar ripped the copy and said the government should withdraw the revised textbooks.

The KPCC president should have, instead, torn the textbooks prepared by the committee headed by Baragur Ramachandrappa, he said.

'CM will reply to Deve Gowda'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Revenue Minister R. Ahsok said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will reply to former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on the latter's objections to the school textbooks revised by the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee. Mr. Bommai was in Delhi on Thursday.

"Mr. Gowda wrote a letter to the Chief Minister, so Mr. Bommai will reply through a letter and provide all clarifications on Friday," Mr. Ashok said.

A few days ago, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh visited the residence of Mr. Gowda and clarified his doubts, Mr. Ashok said. On Wednesday, Mr. Bommai chaired a meeting with Mr. Nagesh and sought clarifications on the issues raised by Mr. Gowda and seers of different communities.

CM: Nothing to do with Katti's statement on division of State

Siddaramaiah terms Minister's statement a 'betrayal'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after Minister Umesh Katti said that North Karnataka would become a separate State after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, triggering a controversy, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday sought to distance the government from the remarks of his ministerial colleague.

There is no thinking or proposal at the government level to carve out a separate state of North Karnataka, the Chief Minister told reporters in New Delhi.

Calling it the personal view of Mr. Katti, the Chief Minister cryptically said, "This is not the first time that Mr. Katti has spoken like this."

On clarification sought by the Opposition on Mr. Katti's remarks that about 50 new States, including that of North Karnataka, would be carved out in the country, Mr. Bommai said, "Mr. Katti himself should reply to this question." At Hassan, Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan told reporters, "Being in a responsible position, he should not make such statements. I condemn his statement on behalf of six-and-a-half crore people of the State".

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai addressing the media at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah took exception to Mr. Katti's remarks that division of the State will be executed under the leadership of Mr. Modi. Describing this as "shocking", he sought clarification from the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister.

Mr. Siddaramaiah demanded that Mr. Katti should be sacked from the ministry if his remarks were not true.

He also described the episode of issuing statement to the effect of dividing the State as "betraying" Karnataka and Kannada as well as those who fought for unification of the State.

For nomination

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister said he had come to Delhi on the instructions of BJP top leaders who had asked all the party Chief Ministers to be present when party candidate for Presidential elections, Droupadi Murmu, would file the nomination papers and to sign the nomination papers as one of the proposers. He said he had no plans to meet any top leaders of the party or hold talks on Cabinet expansion for now.

Raising awareness

Arogya Soudha, the State health secretariat, was illuminated on Thursday to raise awareness about Huntington's disease, a progressive, neuropsychiatric, and a rare genetic disorder. It causes the gradual malfunction or death of nerve cells in the brain. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Agnipath: Congress protest on Monday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Congress has decided to hold peaceful protests across all 224 constituencies of Karnataka on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. against the implementation of Agnipath scheme, a military recruitment drive taken up by the Centre.

All MLAs in their respective constituencies and DCC presidents have been told to take the lead in holding protests. The State Congress decided to hold a protest following the directive of the party high command.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar told senior leaders and MLAs of the party to involve more youth leaders and students in the protest.

The Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress, led by its president Mohammed Haris Nalapad, will hold a massive protest against the scheme in Bengaluru on Friday.

Tremors felt in Hassan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN/MYSURU

Residents of several villages in Holenarasipur taluk in Karnataka experienced tremors early in the morning on Thursday. An earthquake of magnitude 3.4 was recorded at 4.37 a.m., with the epicentre located near Maluganahalli in Nagaranahalli Gram Panchayat in Holenarsipur taluk of Hassan district.

The residents were woken up from their sleep by the tremors. They rushed out of their houses after sensing tremors in the early hours of the day.

A note released by Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) said: "The intensity observed is moderate. The tremors might be felt up to a maximum radial distance of 50 km from the epicentre. This type of earthquake does not harm the community."

KSNDMC appealed to people not to panic.

In Kodagu district

A few villages in Somwarpet taluk of Kodagu district also experienced mild tremors.

The Kodagu district administration said Ranger Block, Ammalli village, Negalle in Somwarpet, and Devasthur in Madikeri taluk and a few other places abutting the border with Hassan also experienced mild tremors. However, there were no injuries or damage to property.

Teacher suspended for questioning Union Minister over fertilizer scarcity

In an audio clip, Khuba is heard telling the teacher to approach local officers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KALABURAGI

Kushal Patil, an assistant teacher at Jeerga (K) village in Aurad taluk of Bidar district, has been suspended pending enquiry for calling up Union Minister of State for Chemicals and fertilizers Bhagwanth Khuba and arguing with him over the unavailability of fertilizers.

Exercising his power conferred under Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957, the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, on June 17, issued the order on charges of 'dereliction of duty, irresponsibility and misconduct by intentionally recording the telephonic conversation and making it viral on social media platforms'.

In the preamble of the order, the officer referred to the complaint lodged by Deepak Patil Lambori demanding action against Mr. Patil for calling Mr. Khuba at midnight of June 15, 2022, to argue over the shortage of fertilizers and defaming Mr. Khuba by making the telephonic conversation public. The officer referred to media reports and the preliminary enquiry report submitted by the Block Education Officer on the issue.

'It's my duty'

Mr. Patil told *The Hindu* that he is the son of a farmer. It is his duty to draw the attention of people's representatives to the grievances of the farming community and raise his voice against the injustice meted out to farmers, he said.

"I might be a schoolteacher. But, my family is into agriculture. The Union Government and Mr. Khuba are claiming that there is no dearth of fertilizers. But, the ground reality is that fertilizers are not available in the local market. We are running from pillar to post to get a bag of DAP. In October 2021, we had to go to Telangana to procure fertilizers for sowing Bengal Gram and jowar. Again, we are facing the same problem. My family has 88 acres of land in two places. We require 50 bags of DAP for sowing red gram, green gram and black gram, and another 100 bags of DAP for planting sugarcane. But, we are provided with only one bag of DAP. We have voted Mr. Khuba to power. We have all the rights to approach him when we have a problem," Mr. Patil said.

Mr. Patil said that he would launch a protest against what he called the 'dictatorship' of the Union Minister, apart from seeking legal remedy.

"The district unit of the Teachers' Association is discussing the issue. We would shortly decide our next course of action. We will launch a protest against the suppression of voices for justice. We will also approach the court," Mr. Patil said.

In the telephonic conversation, Mr. Khuba is heard telling Mr. Patil to approach local officers and people's representatives for any grievance regarding the shortage of fertilizers. He was heard saying that he is a Union Minister and cannot attend to such minor issues. The conversation quickly turned into a heated exchange of words between the two. At one point, Mr. Patil dared Mr. Khuba to come to his village and seek votes, and win the next election.

Accused in triple murder case acquitted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Praveen Subramanya Bhat who was earlier convicted in a triple murder case by the Second Additional District Court of Belagavi has been acquitted by the High Court of Karnataka in Dharwad.

In a case that had drawn the attention of the country, Bhat, a student then, was accused of murdering a housewife Reena Rakesh Malagatti and her two children Aditya and Sahitya at her residence in Kuvempu Nagar in Belagavi on August 16, 2015. Registering the case, the APMC Police of Belagavi arrested Malagatti's neighbour Bhat within a day. Bhat was pursuing Chartered Accountancy course then. The police charged him with having an illicit relationship with the woman that consequently had gone sour, finally leading to the crime.

The Second Additional District Court which heard the case passed orders on April 16, 2018 holding Bhat guilty of the crime.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment and was asked to pay a fine of ₹10,000. Following his conviction, he was lodged in the Hindalga Central Prison.

Bhat's counsel then appealed to the High Court in Dharwad against the conviction. Admitting the Writ Petition, the court stayed the District Court's order. After prolonged hearing, a two-judge bench comprising Justice K.S. Mudgal and Justice M.G.S. Kamal acquitted Bhat of the murder charge citing lack of evidence against him on Tuesday.

Bhat's advocate Praveen Karoshi said that the prosecution had in the District Court relied much on circumstantial evidence and telephone call records, among others.

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BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

The Chief Engineer, Electy., Bangalore Metropolitan Area North Zone, BESCOM, Bangalore, invites tenders for **Restoration of Road/pavement (cement concreting/asphalting) works by BESCOM for the work of Conversion of OH line into UG/AB cable in North Circle and East Circle of BMAZ(N),** jurisdiction through e-procurement portal in two cover System.

Sl. No.	Enquiry No.	Place of the Work	Estimated Amount in Cr.	EMD in Lakhs
1	CEE/BMAZ(N)/EE(Civil)/22-23/ Enq-04 Dated 21.06.2022	North Circle of BMAZ(N), BESCOM, Bangalore.	18.85	18.85
2	CEE/BMAZ(N)/EE(Civil)/22-23/ Enq-05 Dated 21.06.2022	East Circle of BMAZ(N), BESCOM, Bangalore.	15.03	15.00

The Tenders can be obtained through e-procurement portal web-site https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 24.06.2022. Aspiring Bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele)
BMAZ(North), BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general Public that Our Clients have entered into Agreement of Sale in respect of the **Schedule Property** with the present Owner's **1)Mr.K.M. MUJEEB UR REHMAN and 2) Mr. KANVI MAQBOOL HABEEB,** both are Sons of **Late K.M. Maqbool,** Residing at No.56, Seshadri Road, 4th Cross Marappa Garden, Bangalore-560046.

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest in respect of the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within **2 Weeks** from the date of this publications.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential property bearing No.56, having **PID NO.92-40-56,** (earlier old Site No. 60, carved out Sy.No.87, of Khayamugutta Baiderhalli Village, Bangalore),situated at **Chinnapaa Garden, 4th Main, BBMP Ward No. 62, Ramaswamy Palya, Bangalore** measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 50 Feet totally measuring 1500Sq ft, and bounded on the:

East by : Private Property (earlier Site no. 61)
West by : Private Property (earlier Site No.59)
North by : Private Property (earlier Site No.51)
South by : Road

(S.A.H.RAZVI & ARIF PASHA)Advocates
Unit No. S1, 2nd Floor, M.M. Complex, No.60, Chick Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-560051. Ph: **9845049766 / 9243132714**
Bangalore Date: 24.06.2022

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mandya
No:EE/MID/MDY/TB/2022-23/503 Dt:17.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 03/ 2022-23 , Dated : 16-06-2022

Item Wise Tenders are invited from registered and eligible contractors under e - Procurement Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender bid documents KW-5. Under the Head of Account 4702: Lift irrigation scheme for the work of Filling Of Aichanahalli and Other **50 Tanks** (Balance Works) In K R Pete Taluk Of Mandya District By Lift Irrigation Scheme On Turnkey Basis, Amount put to tender **Rs. 10424.79 Lakhs.** Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office up to **dated : 14-07-2022** during office hours. The tenders may be uploaded (Technical and Financial bids to be uploaded separately) with the prescribed requisite documents through website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** upto dated : **18-07-2022 up to 17-00 Hours.** Technical bids of the bidders will be opened on dated : **20-07-2022 at 11-00 AM.** Financial bids of the bidders will be opened on dated : **22-07-2022 at 11-00 AM.** All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all works or any of the work of this tender by the under signed. Terms and conditions required for the each work is published in the " e - Procurement " Tender Portal. Any additional information is available at the office of the undersigned. Any corrections regarding the works will be published in " e - Procurement " portal only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
MI & GWD Division, Mandya.

DIPR\AD-MDY/MC&A/127/2022-23

IN BRIEF

Kerala Opposition leader writes to Union Minister

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan has urged the Centre to urgently limit the imposition of the SC-ordered ecologically sensitive buffer zone. In a letter to Union Minister for Environment Bhupender Yadav, he said any further zonation would upend the livelihood of thousands.

Kerala HC grants bail to Youth Congress workers

KOCHI

The Kerala HC on Thursday granted bail to Youth Congress workers Furseen Majeed and R.K. Naveen, who were in custody for protesting against CM Pinarayi Vijayan at the Thiruvananthapuram airport. The court said the investigators had no case that the motive for was personal enmity.

Abhaya murder accused granted bail

HC puts on hold life term awarded to priest and nun by a CBI Special Court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday suspended the sentence of life imprisonment awarded by the Thiruvananthapuram CBI Special Court to Father Thomas M. Kottoor and Sister Sephy, convicts in the Sister Abhaya murder case. The Bench granted them bail.

The order came on a petition seeking to suspend their sentences and grant them bail, filed along with their appeals challenging the Central Bureau of Investigation Special Court verdict.

Fr. Kottoor and Sister Sephy were awarded the sentence after they were found guilty of murdering 19-year-old novice Sister Abhaya. She was found dead in a well at the Pious X Convent of the Knanaya Catholic order in Kottayam in March 1992.

Thomas M. Kottoor and Sephy, convicts in the Sister Abhaya murder case, were granted bail by the HC. • FILE PHOTOS

Interim measure

The Bench, while passing the order, observed that after a *prima facie* look at the evidence as pointed out by the defence, and not effectively countered by the prosecution, "we cannot but release the two accused, as an interim measure, suspending their sentence till the disposal of the appeals." The court ordered that the petitioners be released on bail on execution of a bond for ₹5,00,000 each with two solvent sureties for the like amount to the satisfaction of the trial court. For the first six months after the release, the petitioners shall report before the police station concerned every Saturday at 11 a.m. and thereafter every second Saturday, the court said. Senior counsel for Sister Sephy, P. Vijayabhanu, argued that there was no evidence to show that Fr. Kottoor and Sister Sephy had met on the night of March 26, 1992. There was nothing on record to show that the injuries found on the body of the deceased were inflicted by the accused persons or any one of them.

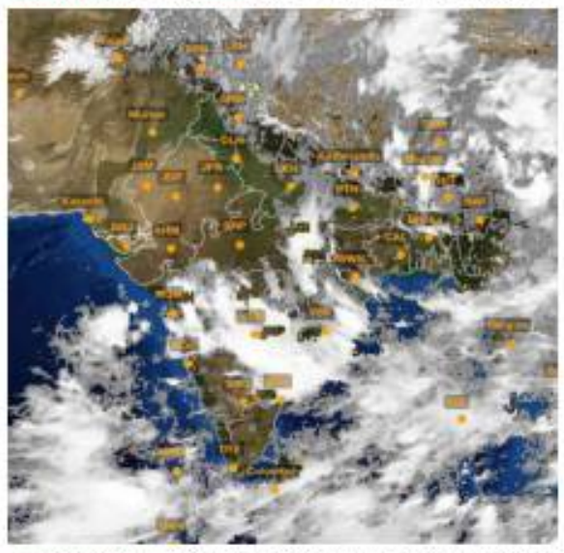
Senior counsel for Fr. Kottoor, B. Raman Pillai, submitted that the sentence passed by the special court was absolutely improper and incorrect. The trial was vitiated by grave illegalities and irregularities. The conviction and sentence were based on the evidence given by three unreliable witnesses.

Besides, the verdict was based on an unfounded story. The weapons used were neither seized nor recovered nor produced before the court. He argued that the verdict was delivered without examining the evidence in the case. It was not a judgment in law, but was 'a beautifully drawn screenplay based on fiction.'

If the sentence passed against him was allowed to be sustained, it would be a travesty of justice.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Bihar, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, coastal Karnataka and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over east Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.8	31.8	26.0	Kozhikode	21	31.1	24.0
Ahmedabad	–	37.6	25.7	Kurnool	–	35.7	25.3
Aizawl	5	25.7	21.1	Lucknow	–	38.6	29.5
Allahabad	–	38.8	26.8	Madurai	–	36.1	24.6
Bengaluru	–	26.2	20.4	Mangaluru	25.1	27.4	23.4
Bhopal	9.8	36.2	22.0	Mumbai	5.2	32.6	25.4
Bhubaneswar	0.9	34.2	24.0	Mysuru	–	30.0	20.4
Chandigarh	–	37.0	25.9	New Delhi	–	37.9	25.3
Chennai	–	32.9	27.5	Patna	–	37.0	27.6
Coimbatore	–	32.6	22.6	Port Blair	4	31.0	25.8
Dehradun	–	36.2	22.0	Puducherry	–	33.6	26.2
Gangtok	–	21.3	18.2	Pune	7.4	31.9	22.8
Goa	29	28.5	23.4	Raipur	–	37.0	26.2
Guwahati	–	34.1	26.4	Ranchi	16	32.8	21.4
Hubballi	–	26.0	21.0	Shillong	0.5	22.9	17.6
Hyderabad	–	34.4	23.8	Shimla	–	29.7	19.4
Imphal	101	28.7	21.7	Srinagar	3	22.6	10.8
Jaipur	–	37.6	27.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	32.0	24.8
Kochi	0.4	30.8	24.6	Tiruchi	3	35.7	24.5
Kohima	–	25.6	–	Vijayawada	–	39.6	25.6
Kolkata	–	34.0	27.0	Visakhapatnam	–	32.5	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO2	NO2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	53	92	59	106	148	
Bengaluru	10	21	13	75	75	
Chennai	12	30	44	73	61	
Delhi	17	31	44	169	201	
Hyderabad	24	31	41	35	86	
Kolkata	13	13	17	41	59	
Lucknow	12	81	67	119	124	
Mumbai	61	31	48	29	40	
Pune	127	22	114	82	59	
Visakhapatnam	10	42	17	44	80	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bettiah, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 276 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling from June 25

20th edition of event to be held at 10 locations

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 20th edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2022 Karnataka will be held at 10 locations in nine cities in June and July.

The event will cover educational topics like CET, COMEDK, NEET, general education (offbeat courses), Law, Pure Science, Arts, Science & Commerce, Management, PGDM, Engineering & Medicine. The event sets a benchmark in educational and professional guidance. It acts as a platform to connect students and parents with speakers and educational institutions. The event also helps students to take the right decisions after getting the necessary counselling and guidance.

Platinum Sponsor for the event are Presidency University, Bengaluru, Ramaiah University, Bengaluru, and Reva University, Bengaluru. The Gold Sponsors are Cambridge Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, Nitte Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru. Silver Sponsors for the event are: ACS College of Engineering, Bengaluru; K. S. Group of Institutions, Bengaluru; Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Bengaluru; Soundarya Institute of Management and Science, Bengaluru; Universal Group of Institutions, Bengaluru, Atria Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and TAPMI, a unit of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru. Other associate Sponsors are: CMR University, Bengaluru, Karnataka State Open Univeristy, Mysuru; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar, and Sri Sairam College of Engineering, Bengaluru. Timings for registration is between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.

The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For details, contact: 9739273958 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. First 300 walk-ins will get a surprise gift. All participating students will get free English proficiency test, STEP.

The schedule

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Bengaluru North	June 25	Chowdiah Memorial Hall	16th Cross Rd, Malleswaram, Bengaluru
Mangaluru	June 25	Geetha S.M. Shetty Hall	Ramakrishna College, Bunts' Hostel Circle, Mangaluru
Tumakuru	June 26	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru
Bidar	June 26	Gyansudha Vidyalaya	Gyansudha Vidyalaya, Mamankeri campus, Bidar
Bengaluru South	July 2	Mangala Mantapa Auditorium	NMKRV college for women campus 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru
Hubballi	July 2	K.L.E. Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi
Ballari	July 3	BPSC Pre-University College	BPSC Pre-University College, Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysuru	July 3	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering	P.B. No.206, Gokulam 3rd Stage, Mysuru
Davangere	July 3	Bapuji Business School	Bapuji MBA College , Lake View Campus, S.S. Layout, Davangere

To pre-register for the event and STEP test, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3N2Sy2F

THE HINDU EDUCATION PLUS CAREER COUNSELLING 2022 KARNATAKA

'Training centre owner key accused'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Subba Rao, who runs the Sai Defence Academy, a training institute for Army job aspirants in Andhra Pradesh, has emerged as the prime conspirator in the Secunderabad Railway Station violence case. Investigators confirmed this after reportedly stumbling upon fresh evidence.

Majority of the 'masked youngsters' seen in the viral video clips of the violence in protest against the Centre's Agnipath scheme "are believed to be his followers or associates", a police officer said.

He is also suspected to have sent money to different districts in Telangana to organise protests.

Latvian woman's murder: trial enters crucial phase

Forensic specialist to testify today

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The trial in the alleged sexual assault and murder of a Latvian tourist in 2018 has entered a crucial phase with depositions by expert witnesses before the Thiruvananthapuram Additional District and Sessions Court-I.

Former Principal of Government Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha, and forensic medicine specialist K. Sasikala, who had led the post-mortem examination of the deceased, will testify on Friday. The prosecution will hope to strengthen its case through the deposition as it notably comes two days after a chemical examiner was declared hostile after his testimony seemingly punched holes on crucial evidence. P.G. Asok Kumar, who was then assistant chemical examiner at the Chemical Examiner's Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram, testified that the possibility of death due to drowning could not be ruled out.

He based his observation on the premise that diatoms (algae) were detected in the bone marrow of the deceased and they matched with the microorganisms found in the water samples.

Notably, diatoms cannot be detected in the bone marrow if the person had consumed the water. The person should have drowned or should have been force-fed water. While the theory could potentially weaken the prosecution case, he later clarified during re-examination that the finding could depend on the extent of putrefaction.

Two prosecution witnesses have been declared hostile thus far.

Calm before the storm

Imminent downpour: Dark clouds hanging above the Dolphin's Nose in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday evening. • K.R. DEEPAK

NIA arrests 3 for Maoist recruitment in Telangana

MARRI RAMU
HYDERABAD

Three members of Chaitanya Mahila Sangham were arrested by authorities of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) here on Wednesday on charge of motivating and recruiting youngsters for the proscribed CPI(Maoist).

Incriminating material including digital devices were seized during the searches before arresting Dongari Devendra, Dubasi Swapna and Chukka Shilpa, officials said.

Case in A.P.

Initially, a case was registered by the Peddabayalu police of Visakhapatnam district in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh State following a complaint lodged by the family members of a nursing student Radha on January 3. The student's family alleged that CMS members had lured Radha into the movement and made her join the Maoists operating in forests bordering Andhra-Odisha.

Recruitment of the student was a conspiracy of the CMS, a frontal organisation of the Maoists, the NIA said, noting that they re-registered the case five months later and took up investigation. Devendra and Shilpa were earlier arrested on charges of links with Maoists. They were lodged in prison and later got bail. Shilpa is practicing as lawyer in Hyderabad.

Condemning their arrest, Telangana State Civil Liberties Committee president and retired professor Gaddam Laxman urged the government to immediately release the three women.

Describing the cases registered against against the activists as illegal, he appealed to the police to drop all cases registered against them. "CMS is not a banned organisation," he said.

Belagavi man swallows tiny idol, undergoes surgery

He usually consumes holy water in which idol is immersed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

A man from Belagavi, who is in the habit of consuming holy water in which a tiny idol is kept immersed, accidentally swallowed it.

He had to finally be operated upon to remove the tiny idol of Lord Balakrishna.

When the 45-year-old approached the ENT Department of KLES, Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital and MRC in Belagavi on Thursday with a complaint that he had swallowed a foreign body, the doctors were shocked to see an image of Lord Balakrishna in the X-Ray taken of his chest and neck.

The idol of Lord Balakrishna that was removed through the procedure.

Later, it came to be known that the man is in the habit of drinking holy water kept in a vessel with the idol immersed in it. And, when he drank the holy water from the vessel on Thursday, he accidentally swallowed the tiny idol as well. Subsequently, he suffered difficulty in breathing and throat pain.

After endoscopy, the patient was immediately rushed to the operation theatre for an emergency surgery. The operation was complex as Lord Balakrishna's foot was stuck in the food pipe of the patient. A team of doctors comprising Priti Hazare and Vinita Metgudmath, assisted by anaesthetist Chaitanya Kamat, performed the complex procedure through endoscopy and removed the idol carefully giving a big relief to the patient.

Fear of oil spill looms as merchant vessel sinks

Princess Miral carrying a crew of 15 members ran aground five nautical miles off the city on Tuesday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The merchant vessel, Princess Miral, which ran aground five nautical miles off the city on Tuesday following damage to its hull, sank on Thursday near Batpady, according to Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra.

Dr. Rajendra, who heads the District Disaster Management Committee, appointed on Thursday Karnataka Coast Guard Commander and Deputy Inspector-General S.B. Venkatesh as Incident Commander to take steps for preventing likely oil spill from the sunken vessel.

The crew members of *mv* Princess Miral who were rescued by the Coast Guard on Tuesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Coast Guard personnel had rescued 15 Syrian marine crew as they abandoned the vessel following ingress of water on Tuesday.

"Preliminary survey is being conducted by a private agent (Smith, an expert company from Singapore) to decide how to de-fuel the vessel and what to do with the ship," Dr. Rajendra said.

The Deputy Commissioner on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Disaster Management Committee in which all stakeholders, including those from New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA), Coast Guard, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, participated.

"Coast Guard is the nodal agency that handles oil spill and other environmental impact resulting from incidents in deep sea. Hence, we appointed Mr. Venkatesh as Incident Commander," he said.

During the meeting, Dr. Rajendra said that it has been submitted that the agency associated with the merchant vessel has dispatched personnel to the spot to remove furnace and engine oil from the sunken vessel and prevent possible oil spill.

"Oil spill is unlikely. But we are preparing for the worst likely scenario," he said.

Neighbouring Kasaragod district (Kerala) has also been alerted about the incident.

The Department of Fisheries has been asked to alert fishermen against undertaking fishing around the area where the vessel has sunk.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has been directed to test samples of sea water at regular intervals. NMPA and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) have been told to help KSPCB officials in this connection. All departments have been asked be on the alert and told of the steps that need to be taken in consultation with the Coast Guard, if any oil spill is seen on the coast and in the river.

Meanwhile, the Coast Guard completed questioning the crew members and handed them over to the Coastal Security Police and Mangaluru City Police on Wednesday. The 15 crew members have been lodged in a guesthouse in the city. They will be sent shortly to the foreigners detection centre in Nelamangala, Bengaluru, from where they will be deported.

The 90-m-long and 30-m-wide vessel was carrying 8,000 tonnes of steel coil from Tianjin in China to Beirut in Lebanon. All the crew members are found to be carrying valid travel documents, the police said.

Tiger by the tail

Sena rebellion was in the making for a while, and does not allow for a quick fix solution

With a majority of the party legislators joining a rebellion led by Eknath Shinde, the Shiv Sena appears to be slipping out of the control of its chief and Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray. The MVA, the ruling tripartite alliance of the Shiv Sena, Congress and the NCP, is unravelling, and it is unclear what will take its place. The Congress and the NCP have pledged the continuation of their support to Mr. Thackeray, who has in turn expressed his willingness to step aside in favour of another leader from the party. The Congress has even offered to provide outside support to the government should it help the Sena put its house in order. Mr. Shinde, until he turned rebel, was a key Sena leader, and has couched his rebellion in ideological terms; the Sena has drifted away from its Hindutva moorings by aligning with the NCP and the Congress, according to him. Mr. Thackeray has responded by reiterating his steadfast commitment to Hindutva, in an emotional appeal to party MLAs to stay together. But that seems to have done little to soothe frayed nerves in the party, and more leaders are flocking to the rebel tent. The MVA alliance was formed after months of political machinations, including the dramatic swearing-in of a short-lived government of the BJP and a section of the NCP that returned to the party quickly. The BJP is waiting for the opportune moment to make its next move, after using its governments in Gujarat and Assam to abet the revolt.

The Sena severed its ties with long-term partner BJP, even overlooking their ideological bonding of Hindutva to reclaim its eroding primacy in State politics. Despite the ideological mismatch among the allies, the MVA partners had compulsions to stay united – until the resentment within the Sena snowballed to challenge the authority of the Thackeray family. This crisis has been in the making for a long time, and the CM's blind trust in the loyalty of his warriors has turned out to be misplaced. To be fair, these MLAs had been complaining about lack of access to the CM and his son and Minister Aaditya Thackeray. The junior Thackeray's attempts to reshape the party as more palatable to the upper-class sensibilities disturbed the rustic, often restive party base that used to be kept on a constant boil by his grandfather and party founder Bal Thackeray. Mr. Shinde is one of the very few mass leaders in Sena, after the Thackerays. He is perceived to be accessible, and holds sway in two districts neighbouring Mumbai, almost six municipal corporations and an equal number of smaller local bodies. He felt sidelined in the new scheme of things, and was waiting for the right opportunity to strike. The Sena is at a crossroads and could even head to a dead end.

Paradigm shift

Under new President, Colombia has a chance for stable growth after years of drug wars

The victory of Gustavo Petro, a former guerrilla, in Colombia's presidential election is one of the most decisive shifts in the South American country's modern history. At war with leftist guerrillas for decades until a few years ago, Colombia had never voted a leftist to power in the past. Even when a wave of leftist victories was sweeping across South America in the early 2000s, it remained a fort of centrist and conservative politics. But Mr. Petro, armed with his promises of overhauling the country's economy and governance, broke into this fort and captured power. He won 50.4% votes in Sunday's election against his rival Rodolfo Hernández's 47.3%. A host of factors, including internal political changes and economic challenges, helped him script history. In Colombia, where a decades-long civil war between the state and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) had had a devastating impact on the public psyche, even mainstream leftist politicians had struggled to win popular support. But FARC's decision to lay down arms and join the political mainstream as part of the 2016 peace agreement widened the scope for leftist politics in the country. Mr. Petro was quick to mobilise this newly created momentum with an economic programme that broke from the Bogota consensus. He vowed to "democratise land", renegotiate free trade agreements that were inimical to the interests of Colombian farmers, expand the country's social security measures, tax the rich more and reduce Colombia's reliance on fossil fuel.

In a country where annual inflation is 10%, the youth unemployment rate is 20% and the poverty rate is 40%, Mr. Petro's promises of change helped him strike a chord with voters. Colombia, despite high economic growth, has one of the highest inequality rates in Latin America. While the civil war has come to an end, drug cartels continue to pose serious security challenges. The way ahead is not going to be easy for Mr. Petro. True, he has the presidency, but the Colombian right, which has ruled for decades, has an outsize influence over the state and Congress. Mr. Petro's leftist bloc has only 25 seats in the 188-member lower House. His promise to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and shift to renewable energy could trigger opposition from the powerful oil industry, besides economic impacts. His move to hold talks with the drug cartels and end the drug wars could attract strong opposition from the U.S. Washington would not sit idly if Mr. Petro takes Colombia, the cornerstone of the U.S.'s Latin American policy, towards the left. So, he should brace for challenges emanating not just from his right-wing opponents but also from the world's most powerful country. Mr. Petro, however, should stay focused on the issues at hand and seek to unite the country that has been pulverised by civil conflict, drug wars and economic inequality.

Majoritarian politics, Muslim marginality

It raises questions about the new notions of representation in political life and the future of pluralism in India

ZOYA HASAN

India is a country of incredible religious, ethnic, and linguistic diversity. Muslims form an important part of that mosaic which would be incomplete without them. Muslim communities themselves are 'diverse, with differences in language, ethnicity, and access to political and economic power'. But, lately, they have faced discrimination regardless of their internal differences in employment, education and housing. Many lack access to health care and basic services. Above all, they often struggle to secure justice despite constitutional protections and equal citizenship guarantees.

The ruling party, its politics

In general, Muslims are under-represented in public institutions and representative bodies in India. While there have been improvements in the representation of most groups, for example, the percentage of backward caste Members of Parliament in the Hindi belt had nearly doubled from 11% in 1984 to more than 20% in the 1990s, Muslims continued to be under-represented in relation to the general population. Upper castes remain the most over-represented in the Lok Sabha with nearly 29% and Other Backward Classes 22% in 2019. Most importantly, there will be no Muslim Member of Parliament in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) when the terms of three of its Muslim MPs in the Rajya Sabha ends in July. It did not nominate any Muslim member to the Rajya Sabha in the recently concluded elections to the Upper House to recompense for their absence in the party contingent in the Lok Sabha. This marks an unprecedented moment in the history of our democracy as for the first time the ruling party will have no Members of Parliament from the largest minority in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, signalling their distance from political power and curtailing their opportunities of getting heard where it matters.

The BJP has no Muslim Members of the Legislative Assembly in the States either. This is a direct result of a political strategy first implemented in Gujarat of winning a majority without minority support. This strategy has been extended to other States, most strikingly to Uttar Pradesh in the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elections, where it won huge majorities with negligible minority support. Muslims have thus been pushed out of the system first by rendering them irrelevant electorally and then rendering them invisible in the public sphere owing to their electoral inconsequentiality.

The erosion of the secular

This raises questions about how inclusive India is to its large Muslim minority population. What is at stake however is not the question of representation of Muslims as much as a series of questions about the new notions of representation in political life and the future of pluralism – which is the bedrock of India's democracy. Pluralism was a way of demonstrating that India's democracy represented everyone and this gradually became the cornerstone of Indian political practice. However, the transformational changes in Indian politics in the last decade have eroded the secular and pluralist basis of the nation. The failure to keep creed out of politics, a major fault line of Indian democracy today, is changing the structure and basis of representation. It is worth remembering in this context that the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had framed the 2022 Assembly election as an 80 per cent versus 20

AFP

per cent election, where the 20% group (a dog whistle for Muslims) represented supporters of mafias and criminals thus effectively delegitimising and derecognising a whole community.

The dominant template

This form of brazen majoritarian politics changes the very meaning of liberal democracy, reshaping it to provide expression through state power to the majority will while disregarding and excluding minorities. In these circumstances, parties that depend on the support of minorities too end up making them invisible in order to compete on somewhat similar grounds to fit into the dominant template. This approach denies the 'legitimacy of political majorities forged with the aid of minority support or votes'. For this reason Rahul Gandhi was mocked and ridiculed for contesting from Wayanad in Kerala claiming that he has done so because it is a Muslim majority constituency.

As noted above, Muslims have remained under-represented in the legislative arena since Independence. The number of Muslim Members of Parliament has gone up marginally from 23 to 27 (roughly 4%), which is still very low compared to other groups. That modest increase took place even though the share of Muslims candidates decreased. Among the main parties, the overall number of Muslim candidates decreased, from 10.3% to 8%, the biggest decrease reported in State-based parties. The explanation for this cannot be found in the structural limitations of the first-past-the-post electoral system and the lack of winnability of Muslim candidates. It is political factors, that is to say the growth of majoritarian politics, that is aggravating the problem of under-representation. Over the last few years, majoritarian politics has changed the political landscape markedly in relation to Muslims. Hereafter, decline in representation is apparent in the States where majoritarian politics is a dominant force. In the event, most parties disregard their claims to tickets as they fear their rivals would accuse them of sacrificing the interests of the majority community. Hence, parties are busy reducing the tickets given to Muslims for fear of being branded anti-Hindu if they give fair representation to them or promote and protect their interests.

This trend directly relates to the privileging of the majority community and the ethnicisation of the state. It marks a shift from representative democracy based on inclusive politics in which everyone has equal rights, regardless of caste or creed, to an ethnic-majoritarian politics which treats accommodation of diversity as concessions to minorities at the expense of the majority community.

An instrument of protection

It is certainly not necessary or desirable for Muslim concerns to be represented by Muslims; in fact it is infinitely better for them to be represented by non-sectarian secular parties. But when parties are unwilling to stand up for them when they are explicitly subjected to hate speech or their constant targeting by the state is not countered or when institutions refuse to speak up for them when their homes and shops are illegally demolished and their livelihoods destroyed, then their presence in institutions matters. Instead of being understood as concession, political representation should be conceived of as an instrument of minority rights protection. The dwindling representation of Muslims in legislatures and public institutions matters also because substantive representation (of the interests of a group) is linked to descriptive representation (their numerical presence). The Indian experience shows that 'access to institutions is a key element to obtaining the state's attention. Interests tend to be better represented once a group has actual representation in public institutions'.

A litmus test

To conclude, diversity in public institutions is essential to promote stability and integration of the state as an institution of governance since an underlying premise of democracy is power sharing along multiple axes – religious, linguistic, regional, caste, tribal, etc. The extent to which ethnic or racial minorities are present in legislatures can be viewed as a litmus test for the effectiveness of a country's democratic system and for redressing ethnic inequalities or addressing discrimination. At the same time it underlines the complexities of democratic politics with regard to the relationship between formal and substantive equality and the question of whether it is enough to give people formal equality, or whether there is a need also to address the structural obstacles that prevent certain groups from making full use of their equal rights, as said in a paper on 'The Political Representation of Ethnic and Racial Minorities', New South Wales Parliamentary Library. One thing is clear from recent Indian experience. Rights without participation in public institutions have been largely ineffective.

Zoya Hasan is Professor Emerita, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and currently Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi

A turning point for Ukraine and its women's rights

Its ratifing the Istanbul Convention is also timely in the context of Russia's invasion and Kyiv moving closer to Europe

AKANKSHA KHULLAR

The Ukrainian Parliament – the Verkhovna Rada – passed a Bill on June 20 ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Better known as the Istanbul Convention, it is the most far-reaching international treaty designed to set legally binding standards for governments in Europe for the prevention, protection, and prosecution of gender-based violence. According to official numbers, 259 deputies voted in favour of the bill, eight voted against it, 28 voted blank and 47 abstained.

It will make a difference

While the convention was first signed by Ukraine in 2011 – despite repeated calls from activists to ratify it – the government, for years, remained stubbornly mute on the subject and continued to delay its ratification because of opposition by religious and conservative groups over the term "gender" used in the document, as a recent article by Asami Terajima in the *Kyiv Independent* on Ukraine's ratification makes clear. Ukraine in fact, came close to ratifying the convention in 2016 but failed after a majority in Parliament voted against it. As a result, until today, Ukraine was one of the 11 countries that had signed but never ratified the Istanbul Convention.

However, the government's recent decision to ratify the convention is a huge step forward for the protection of women and girls from all forms of violence, whether in Ukraine or abroad, and could not be more timely for a number of reasons.

Gender-based violence

To begin with, the risk of women becoming victims of gender-based violence in Ukraine has increased immensely over the course of Russia's eight-year war. In fact, the increasing number of reports that have emerged since the beginning of Russia's invasion in late February 2022 only suggests that the Russian troops have been using rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war and instrument of terror to control civilians. These fears were further crystallised following Russian withdrawal from Bucha, when some nearly 20 women and girls were assaulted by forces in a basement, nine of whom became pregnant from the assault.

Although, the Russian authorities have denied alleged sexual

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

abuse by their troops, the truth is that women in Ukraine have been disproportionately affected by the war. And as the tensions continue to rise, the risk of gender-based violence will also be heightened, with survivors suffering more severe levels of abuse. The prompt implementation of the convention could thus equip the Ukrainian authorities to deal with these atrocities and serve to reassure the survivors and provide them with the confidence to seek justice.

Besides, women's rights activists in Ukraine have long been calling for changes – as highlighted in Ms. Terajima's article – in legislation to 'impose harsher forms of punishment against the offenders of gender violence. For instance, domestic violence has been an administrative offence in Ukraine since 2003, which is punishable by a fine, community work of up to 60 hours or by imprisonment of up to 15 days. Then in 2019, systematic domestic violence was criminalised, which in practice meant that criminal charges will only be imposed if the abuser commits three offences in a year'. However, these pieces of legislation and forms of punishment often fell short of what the victims anticipated as being fair prosecution, discouraging them and others to go through the process of seeking justice.

In this sense, the convention's ratification will not only expand 'the list of abuse against women punishable by law in Ukraine – including but not limited to psychological abuse, stalking, forced marriage, physical and sexual abuse, forced abortion, sterilisation' – but also provide the authorities with the opportunity to bring about changes in its legislation and institutional procedures. In furtherance, it will also mean that Ukraine will be responsible for financing more shelters for women, training social workers to adequately handle cases of sexual violence, and increase resources of assistance available for victims.

Aiding EU integration

Apart from being a decisive step in the fight against gender-based violence, the adoption of the Istanbul Convention will also help in Ukraine's European integration. Guaranteeing human rights is the most important aspect that is considered when European Union (EU) membership is being extended to a country. It has thus been crucial for Ukraine to demonstrate actions that will bring the country closer to European legislations and values. And a good way of doing this is through the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. The decision is in fact, of particular significance for the Netherlands and Sweden, two 'sceptical' countries that were initially blocking Ukraine's candidate seat but have now eventually agreed to back EU member status for Ukraine.

The ratification, as Ms. Terajima's article highlights, is thus, a big milestone for Ukraine and has been applauded by many institutions, including the United Nations Human Rights Council and the EU Commission on human rights in the hope that it will decrease both the number of gender-based violence and domestic violence cases. It will also bring Ukraine closer to other countries that have already ratified the convention. However, an important thing to keep in mind is the fact that the proper implementation of the convention will require financial resources, which seems like a challenging goal for a country already facing economic downfall due to the Russian invasion.

Akanksha Khullar is the Assistant Manager, Ministry of Women and Child Development Desk at Invest India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Maharashtra politics

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) seems to have developed unparalleled expertise in breaking and making State governments, according to its desires. In this light, the political events unfolding in Maharashtra are not totally unexpected; the Shiv Sena leadership ought to have sniffed out these moves at the very nascent stages (Page 1, "Uddhav Thackeray fights to keep control over Shiv Sena", June 23). But what is puzzling is why the BJP has not been able to complete the 'defection engineering' job in Gujarat. That rain-hit Assam is also a part of the political game is startling. One hopes that the developments serve as a wake-up call to the Congress and NCP to safeguard their 'vulnerable' legislators.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

■ The rebellion against Uddhav Thackeray's leadership exposes the cracks in the Shiv Sena. The way Mr. Thackeray talked to rebels indicates that he does not seem to have much of a hold over the legislators. It is more to do with the growing influence of the BJP.

PRABHU RAJ R.,
Bengaluru

■ The political crisis bears a striking resemblance to the sordid political episodes enacted by the BJP in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka and the triggering of defections in the ruling dispensations in order to grab power. The writing is on the wall for the Shiv Sena-led MVA coalition. Dislodging elected governments by machinations does not augur well for our democracy.

M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

The next President

Ms. Droupadi Murmu could well become the next President of India. At the same time, it is paramount that the country gets a new President who will act as per the Constitution and his/her conscience. One also hopes that if elected, Ms. Murmu takes up issues that relate to Adivasis and tribal people.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

On Agnipath

The rolling out of the Agnipath scheme to recruit Agniveers for India's defence forces has resulted in chaos. There are many youngsters who will not accept it. Perhaps it could have been introduced as a pilot project and expanded in stages with an adequate number of buffer years. It is too radical a step and should not impact the preparedness of our defence forces.

P.S. RAJAGOPALAN,
Chennai

ED interrogation

It was amusing to read the report, "Neither scared nor threatened: Rahul" (Inside pages, June 23), which summarised the 'grit' of the Congress leader in his having 'withstood' the grilling by the Enforcement Directorate. The ED was only carrying out its assigned duty. As far as Mr. Gandhi is concerned, he should wait till the ED submits its findings and the courts decide on the processing after that.

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

■ Mr. Rahul Gandhi does not seem to have risen from his mundanity. He needs to wait for the 'results' instead of going to town about his not being 'scared nor threatened' after the intense questioning.

SANATH KUMAR T.S.,
Thrissur, Kerala

Tussle in the AIADMK

The intensifying infighting between Edappadi K. Palaniswami and O. Panneerselvam over the issue of 'single leadership' points to political danger – of another split in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. It is no surprise that the AIADMK has been on a slippery slope since the passing of Jayalalithaa. It seems to be more about individuals now than the party and its governance.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

Need for caution

As new COVID-19 daily cases begin to rise, it is unwise to be complacent; investigating how many new and sub-variants have been detected may be of greater interest to epidemiologists than the common man. It is time to act proactively before the situation goes out of control. Health measures must be put back in place.

V. LAKSHMANAN,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Will Agnipath energise or demoralise the military?

PARLEY

The scheme is too massive a change and first needs to be put through a testbed

On June 14, the government announced the Agnipath scheme, which fundamentally transforms the process of recruitment of soldiers, sailors and airmen into the three services. Agniveers, the recruits, will be employed for four years, after which 25% of them will be selected for enrolment in the regular cadre, while the rest will be given a certain amount of money and be shown avenues to get back to civilian life. The scheme has generated a lot of debate, and protests against it have been violent in several parts of the country. To discuss and understand the nuances of the issue, **Dinakar Peri** *spoke to Lt Gen D.S. Hooda (Retd) and AVM Manmohan Bahadur (Retd). Edited excerpts:*

Lieutenant General D. S. Hooda (Retd) *is a former Northern Army Commander*

Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (Retd) *is former additional director general of Centre for Air Power Studies*

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Can you provide an overview of Agnipath and put things in context, given the concerns?

Lt Gen D.S. Hooda (DSH): Let me try and take a very dispassionate view and look at both sides. Just like any scheme, there are advantages and concerns. Let me briefly cover both. The advantages, as have been brought out by the government and the military leadership... they've been talking about a younger military, the average age going down from 32 to 26. The rapid turnover of Agniveers in the system, they are hoping, will attract people who are more technologically savvy and are therefore more capable of handling new kinds of modern equipment. That is why they're also hoping to exploit some people from the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and other technical institutes. What has not been stated by the military and the government, but which is obviously a big factor for the adoption of this scheme, is the fact that at some stage, maybe not immediately, Agnipath is going to help reduce the salary and pension budgets. That could go into capital expenditure and for the modernisation of the three forces. Also, by picking 25% of the whole lot of Agniveers, you will possibly get people who can then be trained as non-commissioned officers (NCOs), etc. And with our shortage of officers, it is essential that we have better NCOs in the military.

There are genuine concerns. Will people who join only for four years, and who are possibly looking at the military as a stepping stone for a future career, have the same levels of morale and motivation that you find among soldiers who are permanently in the military? Is the scheme going to, in some ways, impact unit cohesion, which is absolutely essential? Is the shortened training period good enough to turn a recruit into a soldier who can fit in and function well within a unit?

There are also, in my view, different aspects of different services. Everybody is not going to face the same conditions. Someone in a technical service in a peace station is obviously not going to face the same conditions as someone who is going to spend two-three years deployed along the borders with an infantry unit. So, how will these different conditions impact the Agniveer? Some are saying it could have an impact, while some are saying it will not have an impact on operational effectiveness and readiness. I think it's too early to tell. My suggestion would be that the scheme be put through a testbed. See how it works. Then we can adopt whatever lessons we learn from the testbed.

About treating it as a testbed, wouldn't that have been a better way to begin? And then the scheme could have been rolled out on a larger scale?

DSH: The government has said that we are not going to roll it back, that we are going to implement it. So, even if you do it in this manner, use the first four years as a testbed. The argument that is being made is that the Defence Minister has the authority to make changes where required. But I think the approach to what we are doing currently, and to a testbed, would be different. If we say this is a testbed, I think we will be more open to major modifications wherever required. I am glad the Vice Chief of Army Staff did say something similar, that they are looking at it for the first four-five years as a pilot project.

With respect to the Navy and Air Force, which are highly technology-intensive, what is going to be the impact, given the short tenure of the scheme and only six months of training?

AVM Manmohan Bahadur (MB): When you're talking about technology, and you have studied something in your school or college or an ITI, and then you're absorbed into a military formation, the systems there are totally different. The basis may remain the same. And it takes a lot of time – in my experience, at least four-five years – for people to be trusted to work on systems in their own individual capacity. For four-five years, you're actually under the tutelage of a senior person. No airman, no air warrior signs for his trade in the clearance form for an aircraft going for flight. It is similar for radars, anti-aircraft missile systems, and so on. I'm sure a similar thing goes for the naval systems too. So, at the ripe time of four years, when they are ready to be exploited to their full potential, you're asking 75% of the people to go. And then you get a new lot coming in and you have to start from scratch. A person who would become a supervisor after five-six years of service leaves. A lot of money and, more importantly, effort and knowledge as well as wisdom are going out of the system. This is something that has to be catered for.

And since we've talked of a trial period, in my opinion, the initial lot who come in should go into non-critical streams of the Air Force and Navy. The same goes for the Army too. Let's see how the people respond. And thereafter, in the next lot, or maybe from the third lot, you tweak the system and modify it to take into account the issues that may have arisen. For example, we've done this with the Short Service Commission. It was initially for five years. It was increased thereafter to 10 years, etc.

> **The numbers are not that high that we're looking at huge militarisation in society. If we are able to give them (Agniveers) some decent, honourable second career, that to a large extent would help allay these fears.**
>
> LT GEN D.S. HOODA (RETD.)

The terms and conditions state that Agniveers will form a distinct rank and will sport distinctive insignia on their uniform during the duration of their service before some of them come back into the regular cadre. This is a clear demarcation. How is that from the point of view of motivation, especially where there is close camaraderie?

DSH: I wish they had not done this. There is absolutely no difference in the kinds of jobs that they will do in units, there is no difference in how they will be treated. Having a separate insignia sort of signifies two classes of soldiers in a unit. You shouldn't make any sort of distinction at this stage... Because when you do that, even individuals within the unit will look at each other as a separate class, which is not good. As I mentioned, one of the key factors is unit cohesion. That comes in with a sense of common purpose. Everybody feels that everybody is equal.

MB: A different rank or a unique insignia actually hits at the very basis of unit cohesion. The armed forces are a classless lot. You wear a uniform, whether in school or in college or in the armed forces, to remove all economic and societal disparities, and say all are one. And here you have two people fighting, say in the trenches, the enemy is in front, and you have one person wearing one type of uniform and the other one has an insignia signifying him to be somebody who is different. That is not right. I feel the government can do a simple modification, which is to remove this clause. In any case, when the Agniveer leaves after four years, you may call him Agniveer, but he's not an ex-serviceman. The rule says he's not an ex-serviceman.

A major concern that has been expressed on social media is the issue of national security as young military-trained men will be going back to civil society in large numbers every year.

DSH: I don't think it's as much a concern as it is being made out to be ... militarisation of society. First, the numbers are not that high that we're looking at huge militarisation in society. There could be some who could be exploited [by anti-social elements], yes. And I think to allay these fears, if we are able to give them some decent, honourable second career, that to a large extent would help overcome these issues about how these armed forces-trained people will behave once they're out in society.

MB: When we are talking in terms of militarisation, the pressures of a jobless existence weigh against the ethos, or the morality, that you may have learned in those four years. That really stretches the elastic, the malleability of one's character, and some may, unfortunately, fall for it. So, the point is, it is not such a big problem – but to say that there is no problem, I think that too would be incorrect. And the way out is we have industry falling head over heels saying that we will give them jobs. I like former Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash's reply to a tweet from one of the industrialists, where he said, what have you been doing till now, please give us numbers? Even now as we speak, ex-servicemen are looking for jobs. We have to move beyond the optics and statements, and do something on the ground to help these people.

What would you say in conclusion?

DSH: I want to reiterate what I said in the beginning. This is a massive change that we have brought about in the recruitment process. I am not sure there has been enough discussion and debate even within the services on how we are going to take people, train them, inculcate in them the ethos of the military, and how long they will serve. I know the service chiefs and service headquarters have been discussing it. There have been discussions with the political leadership. But has it been debated enough within the organisation, at the level of commanding officers and company commanders who are actually going to be bearing the brunt of what is going to happen? My suggestion again is to put the scheme through some kind of a testbed and be open to major changes, if and when required. As AVM Bahadur has also said, you will probably find that there are certain areas, certain pockets, certain traits that are more suited for Agniveers, and some are not. So, this across-the-board option could also be changed a little bit.

MB: We need to look beyond four years. The issue – and rightly so – is that the decisions have been taken by people at the top. When you're talking of the armed forces, the top brass would have retired in four years. And the fallout, if any, good and bad, will be faced by the next set of leadership within the military. I think they need to be taken on board in all the decisions that are going to be taken now – the way this scheme is going to be rolled out and implemented on the ground – because they're going to face the proverbial music.

Additionally, do we need to set up another organisation to look after the people who go out? We have the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, and there are enough [complaints] from the existing ex-servicemen that nothing much has been done. Now we have a larger mass going out every year, a younger lot.

DATA POINT

The problems plaguing thermal power generators

With a coal-supply demand gap, and international coal prices rising, cash-strapped thermal power generators are left with critical stocks

JASMIN NIHALANI

On June 10, India's power demand touched a record high of 211 MW even as the coal shortage continued with coal stocks available only for eight days. In the last two months, as temperatures soared and the economy recovered, the power demand breached the 200 MW level on several occasions. But the coal stock position at power plants remained worrisome. Consequently, the Ministry of Power sprang into action. To bridge the gap between shortage in domestic supply and increasing demand, power-generating companies or 'gencos' were directed to use imported coal for 10% of their requirement, failing which their domestic supplies would be cut.

How did India get here?

India is the second largest producer of coal, with reserves that could last up to 100 years. Despite that, year after year, the shortage of coal supplies continues to be an issue. Why does India have a recurring power crisis? As seen in chart 1, the domestic production of coal stagnated between FY18 and FY21, but revived in FY22. The power demand too surged owing to economic recovery and hotter weather conditions. In a press release published on May 27, the Ministry of Power noted that "despite efforts to increase the supply of domestic coal, there is still a gap between the requirement of coal and the supply of coal.".

Until FY20, domestic sources contributed to about 90% of the power sector's coal receipts; the remaining was filled by imports. But by FY22, the reliance on imports dwindled to 3.8% which built pressure on domestic supplies. As chart 2 shows, the coal imported by power plants declined to 27 MT in FY22 from 66.06 MT in FY17. Coal imported for blending purposes by power plants that run on indigenous coal declined to 8 MT in the last financial year, from 19.7 MT in FY17. Past data show that importing coal for blending has always seen few takers. A bulk of imports was made by power plants designed for imported coal. Notably, their share of imports too saw a decline of 60% in FY22 since FY17. Out of 15 such import-based power plants in India, five had little or no coal stock as of June 15.

This dip in imports can be attributed to the skyrocketing prices of coal in the international markets (chart 3). The price of imported coal is nearly 5-6 times higher than domestic supply. It is in this scenario that the Power Ministry asked the gencos to import coal. However, States are wary of using imported coal as it would raise the cost of power substantially. The shortfall in domestic supplies and the rising cost of imports have put power plants in a precarious situation (chart 4). About 79 of the 150 plants that depend on domestic coal had critical stocks (<25% of the required stock) as of June 15. Eight import-based coal plants were also at critical levels.

Perennial bottlenecks

The use of imported coal will also push up the price of power supply to the power distribution companies or 'Discoms,' often dubbed as the weakest link in the power sector chain. Discoms owe long-standing dues to the tune of ₹1.16 lakh crore to the gencos. Delays in payments by discoms create a working capital crunch for generating companies which in turn inhibits them from procuring an adequate quantity of coal.

According to the 2019-20 report by the Power Finance Corporation, discoms had accumulated losses up to ₹5.07 lakh crore and were therefore unable to pay generators on time. Discoms in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are the most financially stressed (see chart 5).

Discoms are bleeding because the revenue they generate is much lower than their costs. This is evident from the gap between the average cost of supply and average revenue realised (see chart 6). Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan have the widest gap between revenues and expenses of discoms. Apart from providing power at cheaper rates, some State governments do not revise tariffs periodically. Further, the delay in getting compensation from the government also compounds the woes of cash-strapped discoms.

nihalani.j@thehindu.co.in

Chart 1 | The chart shows India's total domestic coal production in million tonnes (left-axis) and energy requirement in billion units (right-axis) in the past 12 years

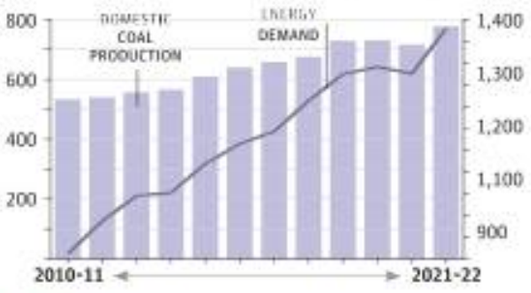


Chart 2 | The chart shows the quantity of coal imported (million tonnes) by imported coal-based power plants (●) and by domestic coal-based plants that use imported coal for blending (●). In the recent years, the usage of imported coal has dwindled across both types of plants

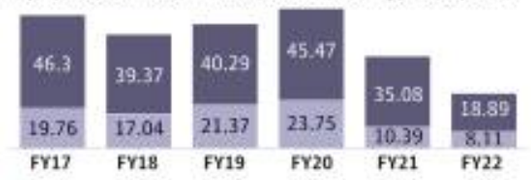
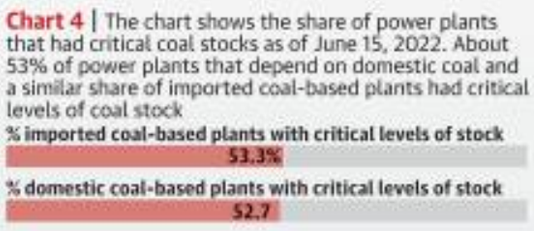


Chart 3 | The chart shows the quarter-wise domestic and international coal prices (₹ per tonne). The price of coal in international markets was on a steep rise while the domestic price remained relatively stable as of Q2FY22

Chart 4 | The chart shows the share of power plants that had critical coal stocks as of June 15, 2022. About 53% of power plants that depend on domestic coal and a similar share of imported coal-based plants had critical levels of coal stock



Source: CEA, PFC, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, RBI, POSOCO

Chart 5 | The chart shows the losses accumulated (in ₹ crore) by power distribution companies (discoms) in select States in FY20. Except Gujarat, discoms in every other State considered recorded losses

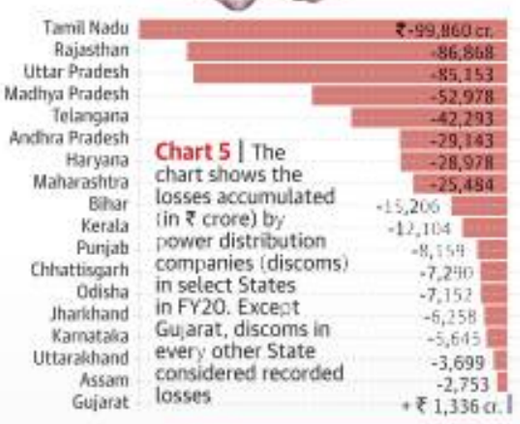
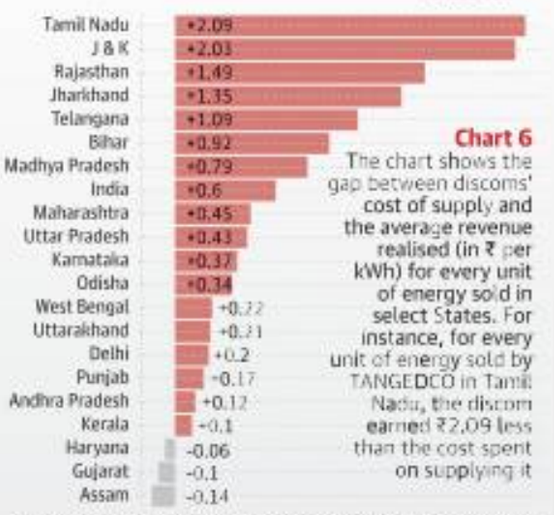


Chart 6 The chart shows the gap between discoms' cost of supply and the average revenue realised (in ₹ per kWh) for every unit of energy sold in select States. For instance, for every unit of energy sold by TANGEDCO in Tamil Nadu, the discom earned ₹2.09 less than the cost spent on supplying it



In chart 6, a positive value indicates that supply costs are higher than revenues and so the utility is making a loss. A negative value indicates that the utility is making a profit

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1972

Venue for Indo-Pakistan summit

New Delhi, June 23: The Retreat, the weekend refuge of the Viceroys from the tiresome gaiety of Simla during the heyday of British rule, is one of the stately homes with an aura of imperial past which are being hastily refurbished and given a quick face-lift for the Indo-Pakistan summit next week. A 100-year old country house with a chequered history, it was originally built by an enterprising British medical officer before it was extensively remodelled and converted into an official residence for the Chief Commissioner of the Simla Hills. Nestling amidst giant oaks, pines and maples in a secluded estate aside the India-Tibet border road, it commands a panoramic view of the Himalayan snow-line. After Lord Elgin acquired the property in 1896 for viceregal use, it was decorated by Lockwood Kipling, father of Rudyard Kipling, who at that time was Principal of the Mayo Art College in Lahore. During the days of Minto, Hardinge, Chelmsford, Reading, Lytton and Curzon to Irwin, Willingdon, Linlithgow, Wavell and Mountbatten, it served as a rendezvous for official conferences in a country home atmosphere away from the stuffy atmosphere of the Viceregal Lodge in Simla. When Dr. Radhakrishnan gave up the old viceregal residence in Simla, the Retreat was retained as a modest summer residence for the President. But it has been seldom used since Independence except for a few brief spells of holiday by Mr. Nehru.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1922

The Climbers

The "Englishman" has published the following telegram from Darjeeling regarding the Mount Everest expedition: Discouraging news has been received from Everest. Another attempt was made after a height of 27200 feet had been reached but only an additional 100 feet was added to the record. Weather conditions experienced are described as terrible. Medical officers of the party have declared that the Members are all more or less incapicitated through their hardships and that several of them are suffering severely through frost bite. Already a section of the party are on their way to Darjeeling to return to England as quickly as possible. A last forlorn attempt was to be made by a party of three between 6th and 14th but as no news of the result has come through it is feared that it has been unsuccessful.

FROM PAGE ONE

Shinde claims support of 'national party'

"They have told me, that the decision taken by us is historic. You have all the strength of ours. If you need anything, we will not let you down. This will be experienced whenever we will need any help," Mr. Shinde says. Minutes later, Mr. Pawar held a press conference at which he read out the names of national parties in the country, and asked which entity other than the BJP could be behind this. "The Maharashtra Assembly is where [the State] government's majority will be decided after a floor test and not Guwahati [where the rebel group is camping]. I have seen such a condition many times before, and my assessment is that the government will prove majority. I do not think that the Assam BJP or local leaders would be able to come to guide them [the rebel MLAs] for this," he said.

This is the first time in three days that Mr. Pawar has held a press conference on the political crisis in Maharashtra. Earlier, he held a meeting of NCP leaders, where the party decided to stand firmly with Mr. Thackeray. Mr. Shinde's group has claimed the support of 46 MLAs, out of which 37 are Sena MLAs and nine are Independents.

When pointed out that the rebel MLAs' grievances spanned from issues such as commitment to Hindutva to the allocation of funds, Mr. Pawar scoffed: "We have been in power for two-and-a-half-years. Where was this Hindutva issue then? Funds are given to all and Finance Minister [Ajit Pawar] has clarified that. I think these are nothing but excuses being used by them."

Nana Patole accused the BJP of using Central agencies to destabilise governments led by rival parties across the country and that the same was happening in Maharashtra.

BRICS supports dialogue between Russia, Ukraine

While discussing terrorism and terror cooperation, the BRICS countries said that only the UN Security council has the authority for imposing sanctions.

While Mr. Modi has held no direct bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi since the PLA transgressions in April 2020, India and China have together attended several multilateral meetings of the BRICS, SCO and G-20. The PM also made no mention of cooperation against terrorism in his opening remarks, which is significant given China's decision to block an India-U.S. proposal to designate LeT deputy chief Abdul Makki at the UN Security Council last week.

This was the first such meeting of the leaders since the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, and comes just days ahead of the G-7 summit in Germany, which Mr. Modi and South African President Ramaphosa will attend, where western countries are expected to deliberate on tighter sanctions against Russia.

In his remarks, Mr. Putin made a veiled attack on the U.S. and European countries for "using financial mechanisms", and to "shift their own mistakes" in economic policies to the rest of the world. "Only on the basis of honest and mutually beneficial cooperation can we look for ways out of this crisis situation, which developed in the global economy," he said.

Mr. Xi said that the BRICS grouping of emerging economies should encourage "true multilateralism" in the world and "urge the world to reject the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation, oppose unilateral sanctions and abuse of sanctions, and reject the small circles built around hegemonism by forming one big family belonging to a community with a shared future for humanity."

Beijing has tightened cooperation with Moscow in the months following the invasion of Ukraine, and committed to a "no-limits" partnership. China has also abstained or voted in support of Russia on a number of Western-led resolutions at the United Nations.

Key AIADMK meeting held amid chaos

The meeting lasted about 45 minutes and Tamilmagan Hussain, who was elevated from interim presidium chairman to permanent presidium chairman at the meeting, announced that the general council would meet again at the same venue at 9.30 a.m. on July 11, when it would discuss the demand for "unitary leadership" (after overcoming legal hurdles).

Mr. Shanmugam, a former Law Minister, submitted a memorandum – which he said was signed by 2,190 general council members – to Mr. Hussain, with a request that the need for a single leader be discussed at the next general council meet. He added the party had suffered setbacks (in the elections) due to dual leadership. Also, the party was unable to counter the ruling DMK's politics. Due to this, the party cadre, functionaries and public were disappointed and shocked. Dual leadership was confusing and contradictory, leading to fatigue in the party, Mr. Shanmugam said.

For the party to survive long as envisioned by the late former Chief Ministers M.G. Ramachandran and Amma (Jayalalithaa), it needed a brave leader with clear thinking, he said. Therefore, the next general council should deliberate on removing dual leadership and resolve to work under a single leader, Mr. Shanmugam said, urging Mr. Hussain to fix the date for the next meeting of the general council.

According to sources, the "rejected" resolutions pertained to seeking ratification of the council for the organisational polls, including the election of Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami in 2021 to the posts of coordinator and co-coordinator, respectively, apart from praising the Central government for its people welfare measures.

It was a show of strength for Mr. Palaniswami's leadership on Thursday. All the roads leading to the venue and a majority of the council were full of his supporters. The mantle could not be passed though, due to the High Court order.

Mr. Panneerselvam, who had moved the High Court against any amendment to usher in unitary leadership, was not welcomed at the meeting at all. There were shouts of "don't come" when he entered. There was palpable tension in the hall in which Mr. Palaniswami's supporters frequently vented their anger by shouting slogans against Mr. Panneerselvam. A water bottle was also tossed towards the stage. Even as Mr. Panneerselvam left the venue, some party men tried to *gherao* him, shouting, "We want a single leader."

Put border issue in appropriate place: Wang Yi

China's Foreign Minister meets Indian envoy, highlights Jaishankar's 'disapproval' of European criticism on Ukraine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday held talks with India's envoy in Beijing, Pradeep Kumar Rawat, with both sides exchanging views on the boundary situation and broader bilateral ties.

The meeting, which was Mr. Rawat's first with the Chinese Foreign Minister since his arrival in Beijing in March, came ahead of Thursday's BRICS leaders' summit. Mr. Wang pointedly referred to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's remarks earlier this month, during a security conference in Slovakia, that "Europe has to grow out of the mindset that Europe's problems are the world's problems but the world's problems are not Europe's problems."

Mr. Jaishankar said India was "perfectly capable of managing" the border situation with China and rejected Western attempts to draw a connection between Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which India has been urged to condemn, and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) crisis with China.

Diplomatic ties: Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat meets China Foreign Minister Wang Yi. • PTI

China-India relations

Mr. Wang said, "Recently, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar publicly expressed his disapproval of European centralism and objections to external forces meddling in China-India relations. That reflects India's tradition of independence."

He added that "common interests between China and India far outweigh the differences", and called upon both sides to "work in the same direction to maintain the warming momentum in China-India relations and bring them back to the track of stable and sound development at an early date."

Both sides, however, framed the border situation differently. Mr. Rawat, the Indian Embassy in Beijing said, "emphasised the criticality of maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas for realising the full potential" of relations.

'Positive energy'

Outlining a "four-pronged perseverance", Mr. Wang called upon both sides to "persevere in putting the boundary issue in an appropriate place in bilateral relations" as well as "persevere in the important strategic consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries that China and India are partners rather than rivals...persevere in continuously injecting positive energy into bilateral relations... [and] persevere in expanding multilateral cooperation, joining hands to revitalize Oriental civilizations [and] coping with the complicated world together."

The Indian Embassy quoted Mr. Wang as saying the Chinese side "attached importance to the Indian side's concerns regarding return of Indian students", who have been waiting two years to resume their studies in China.

Both also discussed resumption of direct flights, although students have not yet been offered a timetable of when they may be able to return.

India reopens Embassy in Kabul, sends aid

First consignment of relief for people in earthquake-affected areas sent on an Air Force aircraft

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

In a major step towards re-establishing its presence in Afghanistan, India sent a "technical team" of officials to be based in Kabul and reopened its Embassy on Thursday. India also sent its first consignment of earthquake relief assistance to Afghanistan, where more than 1,000 Afghans have been killed in an earthquake outside the city of Khost. The External Affairs Ministry said the assistance was handed over by the Indian team that travelled aboard an Indian Air Force Ilyushin-76 aircraft, in the first such military, non-commercial transportation since last year.

For humanity: Indian officials in Kabul handing over relief materials to Afghans on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The move to reopen the embassy, 10 months after the government shut it down, marks a reversal of the government's policy on engaging the Taliban, and comes a few weeks after a team headed by senior MEA official J.P. Singh travelled to Kabul to meet with the Taliban-appointed acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi and acting Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, and received specific assurances on security for the deployment. The Indian Embassy will become the 15th mission to be open in Kabul with staff deployed there under the Taliban regime, along with Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, European Union and four Central Asian states.

"In order to closely monitor and coordinate the efforts of various stakeholders for the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and in continuation of our engagement with the Afghan people, an Indian technical team has reached Kabul today and has been deployed in our Embassy there," the MEA said in an announcement, citing India's "historical and civilizational relationship with the Afghan people" as the reason for the decision.

According to the sources, a reconstituted team, comprising security and engineering personnel, has now been sent to Kabul with the purpose of setting up consular and visa arrangements, the distribution of humanitarian assistance, as well as to oversee the maintenance and restart of various development projects Indian companies had undertaken in Afghanistan.

The opening of the embassy is a step towards working more closely with the Taliban regime, officials said, particularly as India worries about the impact of terrorist groups, drug trade and migration on the region.

Trade unions to join farmers' protest against Agnipath

They say the scheme is disastrous for country's security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The 10 Central trade unions in the Opposition camp and several independent sectoral federations and associations on Thursday decided to support the ongoing agitations against the Agnipath scheme. They will join the protests called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha on Friday.

The motorcycles burnt at the Secunderabad railway station during protests against the Agnipath scheme. • NAGARA GOPAL

The unions said they had taken note of the widespread anger and unrest of youth and other sections against the scheme. A joint statement said the scheme was "dubiously designed to degenerate and casualise" the quality of employment in the armed forces through fixed-term contract. They said such a step was being taken without any pension or any benefits such as post-retirement medical aid and other social security. "It has dawned on those who had appeared for military selection exams, on those who are looking for stable employment. Such a dubiously designed scheme severely degenerating quality of employment in country's armed forces will be damaging and disastrous for country's security and combative preparedness, besides dampening the morale and determination of our soldiers," the statement added.

The unions said that policies of the Centre over the past eight years had put ordinary people in great suffering.

"The result is an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor, unbearable price rise, all-time high unemployment and blatant lawlessness by the government itself using bulldozers against suspects. Agnipath is another step intended to take the nation into an uncertain future, with disastrous consequences. It gives the lie to the oft-repeated claim of the BJP of being ultra-patriotic when they try to do away with pension and social security for those who are to defend the borders of our country," they added.

Shah wants to modernise cooperative banks

'It should give chance to youngsters'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that cooperative banks would not be given "second grade" treatment, but they should adopt modern and transparent banking methods to stay in competition. He said cooperatives should give way to younger people in management roles and engage professionals to run day-to-day affairs.

Mr. Shah further said that he had personally known the story of at least three industrialists in the country who started their business with a ₹5 lakh loan granted by cooperative banks. "Today, the three industrialists are the biggest contributors to the country's GDP," Mr. Shah said.

He said there were more than 195 cooperative banks that were more than 100 years old. Despite this, the role of urban cooperative banks was negligible in the total banking sector in terms of deposit and advance payment.

"There are 1,534 urban cooperative banks, 54 scheduled urban cooperative banks... but the development is uneven. We need symmetric development of urban cooperative banks," Mr. Shah said, adding it will help sustain competition.

Mr. Shah was addressing the National Convention of Scheduled and Multi-State Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies organized by the Ministry of Cooperation and National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB).

He said those who dismissed cooperatives as "irrelevant" should look at the success achieved by Amul, Lijjat Papad and IFFCO.

Minister of State for cooperation B. L. Verma, National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies (NAFCUB) president Jyotindra Mehta and Cooperation Secretary Gyanesh Kumar were present at the event.

ED questions Trinamool MP's wife

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday questioned Rujira Banerjee, wife of Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, in an investigation linked to the coal pilferage case.

Ms. Banerjee, with her young son in her arms, arrived at the ED office at about 11 a.m. and left after six hours at about 5.20 pm. The coal pilferage scam involves illegal mining at leasehold mines of the Eastern Coalfields near Asansol in West Bengal. The Trinamool Congress termed the questioning a "political witch-hunt" at the behest of the BJP.

'Dollar alternatives will be accepted'

National currencies to play greater role for trade within BRICS, says Varma

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Sentiment of the market will be the ultimate test for a new global reserve currency that the BRICS member states are considering as an 'alternative' to the American dollar, said a leading expert of BRICS affairs.

Addressing a meeting of Indian and Russian experts of international relations, former Ambassador of India to Russia D.B. Venkatesh Varma said on Thursday that national currencies are likely to play a greater role for trade within BRICS, but it is 'impractical' to expect them to lead up to 'de-dollarisation'.

"BRICS is taking a very important initiative in looking at alternatives, because the need for alternatives is very real. But the key issue is how quickly and with what acceptance the alternatives will be put in place in practice. Dollar has been dominant for a very long time. But particularly since February of this year, there is a greater realisation that over-dependence on a single currency – dollar as the global reserve currency – is a factor of increasing risk. But this risk cannot be addressed overnight," said Mr. Varma in his comments.

D.B. Venkatesh Varma

Mr. Varma hinted that the fate of an alternative reserve currency will be subjected to the market forces that are beyond the control of powerful governments.

"Whatever mechanism the BRICS countries agree upon has to be finally accepted by the market, because the key test is whether the international market or the national markets within the BRICS countries accept this mechanism. The governments and central banks have an important role to play. But each central bank will assess each of these proposals in terms of whether it helps in risk management and whether the markets themselves will finally accept them."

The idea of a new reserve currency was presented by President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday. Following the launch of the "special military operation" against Ukraine on February 24, a series of western sanctions were unleashed on Russia that aimed at imposing a financial cost upon Moscow. This also adversely affected other major economies like India that have trade links with Russia but were unable to make payments in dollars.

IN BRIEF

Ex-Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta is new NIA chief

NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed former Punjab Director-General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta the Director-General of the NIA. The 1987-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Punjab cadre was removed as DGP and posted to the Police Housing Corporation after Charanjit Singh Channi replaced Amarinder Singh as Punjab's Chief Minister in 2021.

Four tribal children drown in a pit in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR

Four tribal children, three of them girls, drowned in a rainwater-filled pit at Majhiguda village in Koraput district of Odisha on Thursday. The victims have been identified as Purni Hantal (6), Bimala Sukri (6), Madhu Hantal (6) and Raila Sukri (4). The accident took place when these children were playing on the roadside, unmindful of the waterlogging caused by heavy rain in the past 48 hours. Two were killed on the spot, while others died in a hospital.

Bhim Awards given to 52 players in Haryana

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on Thursday gave away Bhim Awards to 52 sportspersons of Haryana for their striking achievements in various sports. Mr. Dattatraya said that Haryana had made an indelible mark in the field of sports and owing to an outstanding sports policy of the State government, apart from the international standard of sports infrastructure, the players of Haryana had brought glory to the country at international- and national-level sports events.

CJI to decide plea on sacking jailed ministers

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that a plea seeking a direction to the governments of Maharashtra and Delhi to sack Ministers Nawab Malik and Satyendar Jain, who were arrested in connection with separate criminal cases and are in judicial custody, would be listed for hearing after it is placed before the CJI. It was mentioned for urgent listing before a vacation Bench of Justices C. T. Ravikumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia. • PTI

English introduced in Gujarat govt. schools

GANDHINAGAR

In more than 32,000 government-run primary schools in Gujarat, English has been introduced as a subject from Class I for the first time in a move to make the students conversant with the language and to meet the demands of parents who want their children to learn it from the beginning stages. "We have made the beginning of teaching English as a subject from Class 1 in all government-run schools," said Gujarat's Education Secretary Vinod Rao.

People across India have hailed Murmu's nomination, says PM

NDA Presidential nominee to file her papers today for July 18 election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Droupadi Murmu, National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee for the post of President, reached Delhi on Thursday, a day prior to filing her nomination papers for the July 18 election.

Ms. Murmu called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said that her nomination for the post of President "has been appreciated across India by all sections of society. Her understanding of grassroots problems and vision for India's development is outstanding".

Strong support: Narendra Modi with NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on Thursday. •PTI

Ms. Murmu met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The BJP's 14-member committee to oversee the election of the NDA candidate met at the residence of Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi in the morning to tie up the loose ends related to the filing of the nomination papers. The committee discussed the campaign schedule of Ms. Murmu and her tour of various States to secure support.

'Daughter of Odisha'

Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal president Naveen Patnaik has supported Ms. Murmu's candidature, calling her the "daughter of Odisha" and appealing to all members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly across party lines to support her. On Thursday, Mr. Patnaik asked two senior State Cabinet Ministers, Jagannath Saraka and Tukuni Sahu, to sign Ms. Murmu's nomination papers as proposers.

According to the rules, nomination to the polls for the post of President requires the signatures of 50 electors as proposers and seconders.

Sources in the government told *The Hindu* that the Chief Ministers of Meghalaya and Nagaland, Conrad Sangma and Neiphiu Rio – whose parties, the National People's Party and the National Democratic Progressive Party, respectively, are a part of the NDA – will also be signing Ms. Murmu's nomination papers as proposers.

The Janata Dal(U), again an NDA ally, will likely depute its national president, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lallan', and Lok Sabha members Dileshwar Kamait, Chandeshwar Chandravanshi, Sunil Kumar Pintu and Alok Kumar Suman to sign as proposers.

Five tribal MPs of the BJP from Rajasthan have been roped in as proposers.

Lok Jan Shakti Party president Chirag Paswan has extended support to Ms. Murmu. He tweeted: "It is a matter of pride for us that Droupadi Murmu *Ji* has been nominated as the Presidential candidate by NDA."

The result of the Presidential election will be announced on July 21.

Ready to discuss exit from MVA but first come to Mumbai: Raut

MP's remarks to rebel MLAs spark confusion among allies

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Exhorting the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs led by Maharashtra Minister Eknath Shinde to return to Mumbai within 24 hours, Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday said if they wished the party to exit the tripartite 'Maha Vikas Aghadi', it would certainly be considered provided they showed the courage to return to the capital and present their demand before party chief and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Chaos prevail: Sena MP Sanjay Raut, right, and other party leaders at a press conference in Mumbai on Thursday. •PTI

Mr. Raut claimed that the party was in touch with as many as 22 MLAs who had sided with Mr. Shinde, while adding that if it came to a floor test, the ruling coalition of the MVA (comprising the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress) would win.

Mr. Raut held a press conference in Mumbai along with Sena MLAs Nitin Deshmukh and Kailash Patil, who returned to Mumbai from the rebel camp.

"Do not shoot letters or communicate over mobile phones and social media platforms like WhatsApp and Twitter sitting there in Guwahati. You [rebel MLAs] claim to be firm Shiv Sainiks. If your stance is about Sena leaving the MVA, then we are ready to do so. But first come to Mumbai within 24 hours," said Mr. Raut.

Mr. Raut's remark has not gone down well with his allies, the NCP and the Congress, who have been backing Mr. Thackeray and speaking of saving the government.

"He should have consulted the MVA allies before making such a statement," said senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal.

Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan said it wasn't clear whether the Sena would go with the BJP if they were ready to exit the MVA as stated by Mr. Raut. "While CM Uddhav Thackeray hasn't said anything of the sort [exiting the MVA], is it under some sort of pressure that Sena leaders are making such statements? I do not think Mr. Thackeray will take such a U-turn within 24 hours. Finally, it is their internal matter," Mr. Chavan said.

BJP wants numbers for polls: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Asserting that the Congress party stands with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Thursday said that the BJP was trying to bring down the government in the State with an eye on the Presidential polls.

"The BJP is trying to destabilise the Maharashtra government because they want numbers for the Presidential elections," Mr. Kharge told reporters.

"I can directly say that the Central government and the BJP are interfering to destabilise a stable government. All these things like shifting of MLAs to BJP-ruled States like Gujarat and Assam cannot happen in a day's time," he noted.

Other States may be next, says Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to topple the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra in an "unethical and unconstitutional" manner, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that the BJP would target other States next.

"What is happening in Maharashtra is shocking. There should be justice for the electorate's mandate. After Maharashtra, they will topple governments in other States," the Chief Minister told reporters.

Sonia to appear before ED in late July

She has been advised to rest at home, say sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has asked Congress president Sonia Gandhi to record her statement with the agency sometime in late July after it accepted her plea to postpone her deposition in a money-laundering case linked to the *National Herald* newspaper, officials said on June 23.

She was issued a second summons for June 23 by the agency but the 75-year-old Congress leader could not keep the date as she "has been strictly advised to rest at home following her hospitalisation on account of COVID-19 and lung infection".

Sources said the federal agency has postponed her questioning in the case for about four weeks and she has now been asked to depose sometime in the last week of July. Ms. Gandhi was first issued the notice for an appearance on June 8 but after she reported positive for COVID-19, the summons for June 23 was issued.

The Congress president was on June 20 discharged from a private hospital in Delhi where she was admitted for COVID-related complications. She was admitted to the hospital on June 12, days after she tested positive on June 2.

MLAs in Guwahati for temple fair: Sonowal

Three more Sena MLAs reach city early on Thursday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The dissident MLAs from Maharashtra timed their visit to Guwahati with Ambubachi – the five-day fair at the Kamakhya Temple to mark the annual menstruation cycle of the presiding goddess, according to AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Mr. Sonowal, a former Chief Minister, has been visiting the flood-affected areas of Assam.

"Lakhs of people have been visiting Kamakhya during Ambubachi, which started Wednesday (June 22), every year. They include ministers and MLAs from all over India," he said.

"The Maharashtra MLAs have also come ahead of Ambubachi. One should not politicise their visit just for the sake of it," Mr. Sonowal said after four more independent Maharashtra MLAs reached Guwahati on Wednesday night.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also found a divine link to the huddle of the Maharashtra MLAs in a luxury hotel in Guwahati.

"They have brought Goddess Laxmi with them. It is difficult for hotels to find clients during floods in Assam and the MLAs from Maharashtra are ensuring income for the hotel," he said.

The hotel where the Maharahtra MLAs are staying has virtually been turned into a fortress.

Except for senior BJP leaders and a few leading traders and businessmen in Assam, none have been allowed in or out by the security forces guarding the hotel.

Among those who were escorted into the hotel were three Shiv Sena MLAs who reached Guwahati by flight on Thursday morning.

LS bypolls a crucial test for AAP, SP

Elections held to 3 Lok Sabha and 7 Assembly seats in U.P, Punjab and Tripura

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

In a crucial test to the Samjwadi Party and the Aam Aadmi Party, byelections were held to Azamgarh and Rampur in Uttar Pradesh and Sangrur in Punjab on Thursday.

The results, which will be declared on Sunday, will reveal if the Samajwadi Party, despite its defeat in the Assembly election, can hold on to its bastions. For the AAP, the byelections, coming on the heels of the murder of Sidhu Moosewala which drew allegations of a law-and-order breakdown in Punjab, will test whether the popularity of the Bhagwant Mann government can withstand the outrage.

A Reang tribal woman shows her finger marked with ink after casting vote in North Tripura district on Thursday. •PTI

The byelections in Uttar Pradesh were necessitated by the resignation of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and senior leader Azam Khan after both chose to retain the Assembly seats they won in the recent election.

The BJP is particularly hopeful of winning the Rampur seat, considering it has an equal number of Hindu and Muslim voters. It has fielded Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi who recently joined the party. Asim Raja, handpicked by Mr. Khan, is the SP candidate. The Mayawati-led BSP is not contesting the seat.

In Azamgarh, it is a straight contest between SP president Akhilesh Yadav's cousin Dharmendra Yadav and BJP candidate Dinesh Lal Yadav "Nirhua", a popular Bhojpuri actor-singer. Mr. Akhilesh defeated Dinesh Lal in the 2019 Lok Sabha election by a handsome margin. All the four Assembly segments – Azamgarh, Mubarakpur, Sagdi, Gopalpur and Mehnagar – of this Lok Sabha constituencies were won by the SP in the recent Assembly election.

Neither Mr. Akhilesh nor his wife, Dimple, campaigned this time, though the party machinery was deployed in both the constituencies. The party is confident of winning both the seats.

The byelection in Sangrur was called after Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann vacated the seat on winning the Assembly polls. Mr. Mann has held the seat twice, winning in 2014 and 2019. The AAP government has been on the backfoot since Congress leader and popular singer Sidhu Moosewala's murder.

Polls were also held for seven Assembly seats spread across six States. In Tripura, the elections were marred by incidents of violence.

The Congress, CPI(M) and the Trinamool Congress have alleged that BJP cadres unleashed terror and planned assaults, booth jamming and rigging to reduce the election to a farce.

The BJP denied the allegations, and said the polls are taking place under the close watch of the Election Commission.

Cong. targets Modi govt. on freedom of speech

Veteran deletes tweet on Agnipath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday targeted the Narendra Modi government on the question of freedom of speech over the now deleted tweet by Captain (retd.) Bana Singh against the Agnipath recruitment scheme.

Captain (retd.) Bana Singh

Jairam Ramesh, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary for communication, tweeted: "The fact that a Paramvir Chakra awardee had to delete an honest, heartfelt tweet against the Agnipath scheme demonstrates that in Modi's India not only Freedom of Speech, but Freedom AFTER Speech is also under peril!"

In the now deleted tweet, Capt. Singh, recipient of the highest military honour of Param Vir Chakra, had said "save the country" from the Agnipath scheme as it would badly damage the youth.

The veteran subsequently withdrew his comments and said he would now wait for the scheme to unfold.

Punjab officials flayed for seeking polling extension

EC seeks answers for last minute letter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday expressed its "displeasure" with Punjab government officers for seeking a last-minute extension to the polling hours for the ongoing Sangrur Lok Sabha byelection.

The EC sought explanations from the Punjab Chief Secretary and the Sangrur Deputy Commissioner, who is the Returning Officer, according to a letter by the EC to the Punjab Chief Electoral Officer. The EC stated in its letter that the Returning Officer and subsequently the Chief Secretary had written to the poll body at 4.05 p.m. seeking an extension to the poll hours, while the polling was originally scheduled only till 6 p.m. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who had vacated the Sangrur seat in March after winning the Punjab Assembly polls, said in a tweet today that the poll timing should be extended for an hour as a section of the voters were busy working in their paddy fields.

The EC said the Returning Officer and Chief Secretary's letters amounted to an "attempt of unduly interfering in the election process and influence certain class of voters by conveying them to expedite voting or wait for a time extension."

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY. e-Tender Notice

Tender No: SE/PHC/KKD/04/2022-23. JJM PHASE II (2021-22) - Augmentation of WSS to Kaniyambetta GP and providing FHTCs (5132FHTC) in KANIYAMBETTA Panchayath in Wayanad District. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 15000+18% GST. Last Date for submitting Tender: 18-07-2022 05:00:pm.
Phone: 04952371046
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-404-2022-23
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle
Kozhikode

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (UP)
Ph:0522-4918510, Fax 0522-4918506 Website : www.drrmlims.ac.in
Ref. No. RMLIMS/MM(eq)/2022-23/1327 Dated: 23.06.2022
Tender Notice (2nd Time Offer)
On-line offers are invited through BOQ Based GeM bidding from Manufacturer/ Bidders/Firms/Fabricators for the supply of one Cancer Detection and Awareness Mobile Van with all medical & other equipments including furniture & fixtures on turnkey basis. The offers submitted earlier for the same item by the bidder against Gem Bid No.GEM/2022/B/2210369 dated 26-05-2022 will be treated as cancelled.
The Vendors are required to submit their fresh offer on GeM portal only in two bids system i.e. technical & financial bid as per norms of GeM portal.
For detailed information like terms and conditions, specifications, Date of Submission and opening of bid etc., you may please visit the GeM portal. Details are also available in our website **www.drrmlims.ac.in** for reference only.
Director

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
OHPC
Regd. Office: ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION BUILDING VANIVIHAR CHOUK, JANPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR – 751022
Tel: 91 -0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545526, Fax-2542102, e-mail - ohpc.co@gmail.com
CIN : U40101OR1995SGC003963
No.OHPC:OHPC:TECH:C&P:04/2022-23/ 4072 Dated : 22.06.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sealed Tenders are invited in two parts i.e. (i) Techno Commercial Bid & (ii) Price Bid in separate sealed envelopes from the **Registered Manufacturers only** having valid GST Registration Certificate & IT PAN for supply of the following :

TCN NO.	Description of Services	Cost of Tender Paper (Non-refundable in Rs.)	EMD
OHPC/ CO/C&P/ 05/ 2022-23	Design, Manufacturing, Supply including Supervision of Installation, Testing& Commissioning of 01 no of 11/235 KV, 63 MVA Generator Transformer for Rengali Hydro Electric Project, Rengali	11,800/- (10,000 + GST @18%)	Bid Security Declaration Form duly signed by the bidder in lieu of EMD

For details of the tender documents, terms and conditions please visit / refer our website www.ohpcltd.com from Dated 30.06.2022.
C & P Head
CAD-900: OIPR-04012/11/0007/2223

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation
राजस्थान कौशल एवं आजीविका विकास निगम
(A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise)
Notice Inviting Request for Proposal
RFP No: RFP No: RSLDC/Sankalp/RFP-Tracer Study/2021-22/2470-74 Date-17/06/2022
Managing Director, Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) Dept. of Skill, Govt. of Rajasthan, invites proposals **(Single Bid Two Envelope System)** from reputed and experienced Agencies **for conducting a tracer study on - 'Skill Impact, Skill development programs (ongoing) & Tracking of Placement of youths in Rajasthan'**
Kindly note that the selection of agencies under this RFP will not guarantee allocation of work and RSLDC will assume no liability or cost towards it. RSLDC makes no commitments, express or implied, that this process will result in a business transaction between anyone.
Bid Document Fee and Bid Processing Fee: All Applicants have to pay a non-refundable Bid Document Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousands only) payable to RSLDC and Bid Processing Fee of Rs. 1,180.00 (including GST) (One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) payable to **through DD in favor of MD, RISL, GoR.**
Earnest Money Deposit: 2%
The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and can be searched by clicking the tab 'Bid Free View' on home page of above website and then going to Live Bid/ Hot Bid by searching department name as 'RSLDC'.
The Proposal has to be submitted in online mode containing following cover stage-
A) Technical Bid Open Stage
B) Cost Bid Open Stage
The application procedure, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, terms and conditions and the scope of work are detailed in this RFP which can be seen or downloaded from the "e-Procurement Portal https:// www.eproc. rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website: http://livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in The RFP will be available to download from the above website from 18 June 2022 (10:00 AM). The last date for uploading of proposal/bid will be 04.07.2022 up to 03:00 PM. Technical bid will be opened on 05.07.2022 at 03:00 PM. The evaluation of bids will be under LCBS system. Please refer RFP document for complete details.
The undersigned reserves the right to issue addendum/corrigendum/modification or to amend any or all conditions of this RFP Document or to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) or to cancel the whole of this RFP at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and no bidder shall have any cause of action or claim against the undersigned or RSLDC for the same.
UBN No. : SLD2223SLOB00011
Raj.Samwad/C/22/3877
Managing Director

REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI)
Planning & Economic Affairs (RKI) Department, Government of Kerala
1A, CALSAR Heather Tower, Near Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram-695001.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)/PRE-QUALIFICATION
No. RKI 1/30/2021-PLGEA Dated 23/06/2022
The KfW has supported the State of Kerala through Climate Loan Kerala Accompanying Measure (AM) Grants. The RKI invites EoI for the following services under the Grants.

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Tender Type	Consulting Services for
1.	BMZ202070183/ KFW508409	International Competitive Bidding	Capacity Development for Risk-informed and Effective Urban Planning and Policy Formulation
2.	BMZ202070183/ KFW508056	National Competitive Bidding	Energy Efficient Water Supply Schemes-Energy Audit and Energy Optimization for Kerala Water Authority (KWA)

Details can be accessed at e-procurement portal:
https://etenders.kerala.gov.in. Last date for submission of bids: 27/07/2022, 6:00 PM IST. For general information, please contact: Ph.0471-2332744/2333744.
Email: rkisecretariat@gmail.com, rkisecretariat@kerala.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, RKI

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560040.
No: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-07/2022-23 Date: 22-06-2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division for the works detailed below from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.
(Standard Tender Document - KW-3)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Improvements of Drains & Asphalting to Cross Roads and Main Roads in Ward No. 103, Kaveripura.	100.00	200000.00
2	Improvements of Drains and Roads in Adharsha Nagara and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 127, Mudalapalya.	100.00	200000.00
3	Improvements of Roads and CC Drains at Byraveshwaranagara and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 127, Mudalapalya.	100.00	200000.00
4	Improvements of Drains at Byraveshwaranagara in Ward No. 127, Mudalapalya.	100.00	200000.00
5	Improvements and Renovation of Govt. Primary School Building in Byraveshwaranagara in Ward No. 127, Mudalapalya.	100.00	200000.00
6	Improvements to BBMP Primary School and High School in Ward No. 127, Mudalapalya.	100.00	200000.00

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** 2) Last Date for Receipt of Queries: **29-06-2022 upto 15.00 Hrs.** 3) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **30-06-2022 at 15.30 Hrs. at the Office of Executive Engineer (Govindarajanagara Division).** 4) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **05-07-2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** 5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **06-07-2022 after 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP.
PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Minister calls for testing, surveillance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Following an upsurge in COVID-19 cases in some States, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a meeting with key experts and officials on Thursday to review the situation.

The Minister yet again stressed the need to focus on districts reporting high case positivity and undertake adequate testing (with higher proportion of RT-PCR) and effective COVID-19 surveillance to assess and control the spread of infection in a timely manner.

Dr. Mandaviya directed the officials to continue to focus on surveillance and on whole genome sequencing (WGS) to scan for any possible mutation. The State governments have been instructed to monitor hospitalisations due to COVID-19 and severe acute respiratory infection/influenza-like illness (SARI/ILI).

The Minister said "there should be no vaccine wastage, while focusing on accelerating vaccination among the eligible and vulnerable groups".

The meeting was attended by Ajay K. Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser; Balram Bhargava, Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research; Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, AYUSH, and others.

Silchar town cut off for a week

2.8 lakh people marooned; situation worsened after several dykes breached

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Floodwaters have refused to drain out of Silchar, a southern Assam town, where about 2.8 lakh people have been marooned for almost a week.

The headquarters of Cachar district, Silchar is about 310 km southeast of Guwahati.

"Among the 2.8 lakh affected people are our officers, staff, grocers, labourers and drivers. This has affected the relief service delivery and we have not been able to go to areas such as NH Road, Sharatpally and Das Colony, where the [water] current is still strong," Cachar's Deputy Commissioner, Keerthi Jalli, said after Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made an aerial survey of the flood-hit district.

"Despite the odds, we have been able to distribute 40,000 litres of water, 24,000 milk cans and 10,000 quintals of rice with dal and oil to the people in the district," she added.

"All the police stations and police lines in Silchar are under water. But that has not stopped our personnel from joining six teams of NDRF [National Disaster Response Force] in rescue operations. Four NDRF teams had to be brought from Odisha because the scale of operations has increased," Cachar's Superintendent of Police, Ramandeep Kaur Dhillon told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

Escape plan: About 40,000 litres of water, 24,000 milk cans and 10,000 quintals of rice have been distributed by the police to the people in Cachar district. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Incessant heavy rainfall in the upstream of the Barak river – it originates in Manipur and flows into Bangladesh as the Surma – has made it flow above the previous highest level of 21.84 metres recorded in 1989. Near Lakhipur town upstream, the river rose 2.6 metres above the danger level of 23.88 metres a few days ago.

The situation worsened due to breaches in a series of dykes. But the main damage was done by some people of Mahisar Beel, about 4 km from Silchar, who cut a wide passage through the Bethukandi embankment a month ago to drain out the floodwaters.

The water had then accumulated after overtopping the embankment along the Barak river.

Submerged transformers

Assam's Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, who represents the equally affected Dholai constituency nearby, said many areas of Cachar district have been without power and mobile phone connectivity for at least four days. "Some 4,000 transformers are under water in the district," he said.

"We are used to floods almost every year, but this is perhaps the worst in decades," local resident Aniruddha Laskar said.

On June 20, Dipayan Chakraborty, MLA, sent an SOS to the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) to set up relief camps on the high platforms of the railway station in the town, the nerve centre of the landlocked Bengali-dominated Barak Valley.

Without any trains to operate since mid-May, when the arterial track through the adjoining hill district of Dima Hasao was damaged extensively, the NFR obliged. "Some 200 people have taken shelter on the platforms since June 21, and more are coming," a Railway spokesperson said on Thursday.

Railway authorities said the pressure would ease in a few days. About 80% of the 26.88 sq. km town remains flooded, an improvement though from the 95% a couple of days ago.

India is central to Australia's world view: Deputy PM Marles

'China seeking to shape world in a way like never before'

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Australia sees India as "completely central" to its "world view", Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles said here on Thursday. Stating that China was seeking to shape the world around it in a way that "we have not seen before", he said Australia and India had a shared objective to try and protect the global rules-based order.

"For Australia, China is our largest trading partner, That's the same for India. For Australia, China is our largest security anxiety and so is for India," Mr. Marles said while talking to a select group of journalists before concluding his India visit.

Responding to questions on China, he said it was seeking to shape the world around it in a way that we have not seen before and that has really evolved in the past decade. "Especially in the last few years, we have seen a more assertive Chinese behaviour with respect to that," he said stating it was seen with India along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and in the South China Sea (SCS).

"We have seen that with respect to the LAC, and the incident that occurred a couple of years ago where there was appalling behaviour against Indian soldiers, and we stand in solidarity with India in respect of that incident," he said. "For us, we are experiencing that in the South China Sea."

Richard Marles

With India on LAC

Elaborating, he said when Australia looked at what happened at the LAC, it was seeing one country seeking to deal with its disputes not against a set of rules but with power and through force. "That's a concern," he said.

In the SCS too, "we are seeing greater assertiveness on the part of China", he said pointing to the construction of artificial islands and assertion by China on the sovereignty which he said was inconsistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). "When we look at Chinese behaviour, what we are seeing is an assertive behaviour which seeks to challenge the established rules-based order," Mr. Marles said.

"That's where Australia and India have a shared objective of establishing that global rules-based order," he said.

Talking of shared values between India and Australia, the Deputy PM said both were democracies, had rule of law applicable within their countries, and were seeking to build and respect a global rules-based order that was fundamentally important. We also share geography and Australia is an Indian Ocean country, he said. "In that respect all roads lead to India."

Defence and security cooperation between the two countries had seen a significant expansion in recent years. On this, Mr. Marles said they wanted to see greater frequency of activity in operations and exercises and also "greater frequency and complexity" to increase interoperability.

He said the Indian Air Force would take part in Exercise Pitch Black to be hosted by Australia in August.

Talking of the Quad, the Deputy PM said it was not a security alliance, and defence and security was not part of it. Similarly, the AUKUS trilateral initiative was not a security alliance. "It is technology sharing between Australia, the U.S. and the UK," he said. On the war in Ukraine, Mr. Marles reiterated that the position India took on Ukraine was a matter for India.

Group wants new order on MGNREGA workers revoked

Rule mandates recording attendance on a mobile app

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Union Rural Development Ministry must withdraw its order to discontinue manual attendance for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) work sites with more than 20 workers and use a mobile phone-based application, National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS), for recording attendance, the Peoples Action For Employment Guarantee (PAEG), a group of academics and activists working in the field, says.

The PAEG, in a recent letter to Secretary, Rural Development, N.N. Sinha, said that the Ministry's May 13 order is in violation of the NREGA law and also flagged a series of technical and sociological issues with the app.

Section 15 - Schedule 1 that lays down rules about the muster rolls – clearly says that the muster roll must be accessible to the workers on demand all days during all working hours. If the muster roll is available only digitally, access will be limited.

The app wants MGNREGA workers to upload two time-stamped photos daily.

The app specifies that it is mandatory for workers to upload two time-stamped photos within a pre-determined time window designed by the app.

"This is in direct contravention of Section 3 of the Act which clearly states that workers are entitled to their wages on the basis of work completed by them that is on a piece rate basis," the letter states.

The app discourages women from being mates which fundamentally undermines the Ministry's own repeated push towards encouraging women workers as NREGA mates.

"Having a smartphone is now mandatory for mates to record attendance on the NMMS. However, many women from poorer households do not have access to smartphones. Even amongst families that have smartphones, it is an accepted reality that women are the last ones to access them as per priority," the letter says.

The app has been designed completely in English and there is no technical help provided to redress problems. In case of a glitch, the workers who come to sites are told to go back, since attendance cannot be registered. This, PAEG said, is a violation of rights.

Pets will have to wait for COVID jab

Vaccine technology ready but necessary approval needed to get it to end users

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

End-users will have to wait a bit longer to get their hands on the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine for their pets with the Central government still working on issuing the necessary approvals to introduce the vaccine in the Indian market.

Globally India is the third to produce SARS-CoV-2 vaccine for animals. Besides use in pets (cats/dogs) and zoo animals in India, the vaccine had export potential, said Yash Pal, Director, ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines.

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar earlier this month launched the animal vaccine and other diagnostic kits developed by the ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines.

The Ancovax Vaccine is an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta (COVID-19) vaccine for animals. The immunity induced by Ancovax neutralises both Delta and Omicron Variants of SARS-CoV-2.

Last in line: The immunity induced by Ancovax Vaccine for pets neutralises both Delta and Omicron Variants. • FILE PHOTO

It is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits.

SARS-CoV-2 infects lions/leopards/tigers/cats/dogs in order of disease severity. Currently the disease does not seem to be lethal in dogs, despite high prevalence (~40 %) of antibodies (subclinical infection).

Zoo, wild animals

Also based on the mortality of lions/leopards/tigers in India and the rest of the world, the vaccine can be used to provide protection against SARS-CoV-2 in zoo/wild animals. The vaccine technology is ready, but necessary approval would be required to make the vaccine reach the end users.

"The technology would be commercialised to scale it up," Dr. Pal said. He added that as a research organisation they could only produce about 1,000 doses.

Speaking about the vaccine, Dr. Pal said that his team started working on the vaccine in the beginning of the first wave of COVID-19 in India because immediately after the emergence of the pandemic in humans, there were reports of COVID-19 like illness in cats in the U.S. and European countries.

He added that getting regulatory approvals (institute ethics committee, biosafety committee, animal ethics committee etc) took over a year to start the work. By the time regulatory approvals came, the second wave of COVID-19 in humans was in progress.

"During the second wave Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) which was identical to human SARS-CoV-2, was shown to be associated with the death of lions in Chennai zoo. Therefore it was decided to use the Delta variant to prepare the vaccine. ," explained Dr. Navee Kumar, principal scientist (team leader).

Meanwhile, the Centre has also launched a diagnostic kit – CAN-CoV-2 ELISA – which is a sensitive and specific nucleocapsid protein based indirect ELISA Kit for antibody detection against SARS-CoV-2 in canines. "The kit is made in India and a patent has been filed for the same," the Central government said.

Plea to change call sign VT on Indian aircraft

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A petition moved before the Delhi High Court on Thursday sought a direction to the Centre to change the call sign 'VT' of Indian aircraft which stands for 'Victorian Territory' or 'Viceroy Territory', a legacy of British Raj.

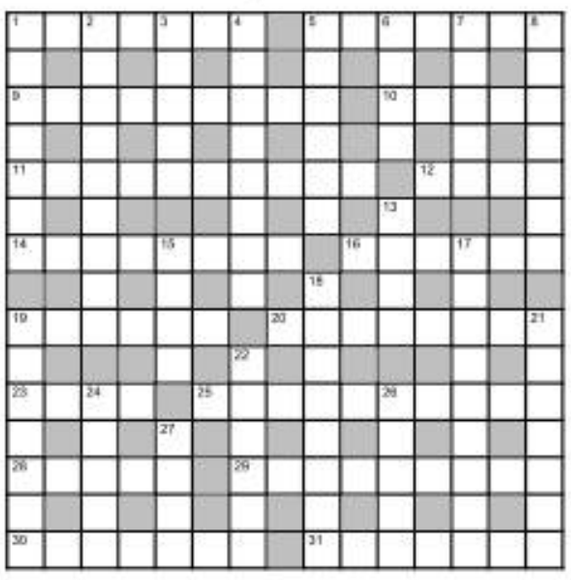
Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhya, in his plea, said the prefix 'VT' is the nationality code that each aircraft registered in India is required to carry. The code is generally seen just before the rear exit door and above the windows. Mr. Upadhyay said all the domestic airlines have the prefix 'VT', which is followed by unique alphabets that define the aircraft and who it belongs to. It said Britain set the prefix 'VT' for all the colonies in 1929. While countries such as China, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka changed their call signs after independence, the prefix has remained on Indian aircraft even after 93 years.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13591

(set by Gussalufz)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 One wanting grass after retirement (over a title) (7)
5 Student overwhelmed by exceptionally subtle points (7)
9 Loud, posh lawyer's concluding as loudly as possible (4-5)
10 Opportunity (bar night for a start!) for wife when husband is late (5)
11 Cold food eaten while throwing a tantrum (10)
12 Thakur Durgapratap's source for biryani and korma (4)
14 Tornado twisting across Florida's western tip like a pendulum (2-3-3)
16 Akram sprints, occasionally showing this body part (6)
19 Fix decoration on a wall while singing (6)
20 Rebellious Tea Party rules after loss of Liberal trust in 2016, perhaps (4,4)
23 Can judge deduct a little bit from bond money? (4)
25 Ship packed with the best medicine and creams? (10)
28 Hundred grand gets a vehicle (5)
29 Like the government in 1984, spin today's development (9)
30 Mass of half of seed grain divided by five (7)
31 A good man caught in extraordinarily messy procedures (7)

Down

1 Budget shortfall is nearly certain as Norway turns to carbon (7)
2 What an autobiography might reveal about its author's life, mega-dramatically (4-5)
3 Out of control boy in charge (5)
4 Take back what was lost, perhaps, as robber is out (8)
5 Courage to abandon love for a war (6)
6 Enclosure rolling within garden walls? (4)
7 Senior England opener, frequently dropped (5)
8 Plastic studs that grip a wicket (some help for a bowler in a rain-affected match) (7)
13 Deceive and split up (4)
15 English extremists in extremely dire confusion (4)
17 Explain in advance – king is into deep frying, OK? (9)
18 English queen wearing tops (inherited stuff) (8)
19 As if Taj cooked Mexican food! (7)
21 Isn't happy about citizens without papers (7)
22 Man with sloppily glued makeshift solution (6)
24 Private hotel suite & chauffeur, finally! (5)
26 Essentially the aroma of old Bob's feet (5)
27 Charge one for transport (4)

SUDOKU

		6		9				
		1			6		3	5
8	2			4		6		9
							2	3
1				5				8
4	9							
3		5		7			6	1
7	6		4			3		
				6		8		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13590

P	R	O	D	U	C	T	I	N
F	O	R	M	S	A	I	M	O
U	R	A	K	N	A	G	A	F
F	O	R	D	A	B	L	E	K
U	L	F	S	N	W	P	E	N
P	A	L	O	P	E	N	G	O
A	L	S	A	N	S	E	R	S
T	O	P	T	H	I	S	F	E
A	V	E	S	R	S	D	A	E
S	O	P	D	O	U	B	L	E
B	E	D	M	S	O	W	A	P
W	I	D	E	O	P	E	N	D
E	M	A	I	N	R	C	E	S
O	T	C	A	L	U	M	N	I
A	T	E	M	O	O	T	T	U
T	R	M	M	H	E	C	E	I
P	T	A	S	H	A	M	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	8	1	6	4	9	2	5
4	6	5	9	2	3	7	8	1
9	1	2	7	5	8	4	6	3
2	9	1	3	8	7	6	5	4
6	3	4	5	1	2	8	7	9
8	5	7	4	9	6	3	1	2
1	8	6	2	4	9	5	3	7
5	4	3	6	7	1	2	9	8
7	2	9	8	3	5	1	4	6

FAITH

God's helping hand

True knowledge is the jnana by which the soul tries to overcome the primordial ignorance that is the cause for the endless cycle of birth, says Tiruvalluvar with his characteristic brevity. In this Kural, he has condensed the highest philosophical thought in simple terms. Saivism has systematised and explained the esoteric truths about the soul or life, uyir; its eternal relationship with God, whose creation is this entire prapancham; vinai, the good and bad effects of our acts; ariyamai, ignorance, etc, pointed out Sri Nallur Sa Saravanan in a discourse.

'Uyir' is the life that is born in a body. It then lives in it for some time and then takes a new body. It thus travels through various births, when the soul gets the chance to better its own awareness of God. The uyir has to connect with God who is the Eternal Truth. But it is covered with ajnana or ignorance that is held to be anadi or without a beginning. It is made very clear that though ignorance is anadi, it can be brought to an end with divine knowledge. God helps the jiva to come out of ariyamai and endows it with spiritual awareness. Though these truths are not apprehended by all, there have lived men and women who have chosen to make themselves pure in heart and spirit and have lived a life of austere practices. They have spoken of their direct knowledge and closeness with God.

From Tirunavukkarasar's hymns we understand that God Himself becomes the thavam or penance and His grace fosters his spiritual growth at every step. God chooses His ways to help every individual effort both from outside and inside. Manikkavachagar says he attained the state of Siva Jnana by his thavam. Thavam or 'tapas' helps one to attain purity of thought, word and deed and experience His proximity.

India promises Sri Lanka 'fullest support'

Colombo has sought a further $500 million from New Delhi to import fuel and is awaiting a response

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

India on Thursday assured Sri Lanka of its "fullest support" to help the island tide over its unprecedented economic crisis while "considering further financial assistance", the Sri Lankan President's office said.

A delegation from New Delhi led by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, and including Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser; and Kartik Pande, Joint Secretary to the Indian Ocean Region Division at the Ministry of External Affairs, visited Colombo on Thursday.

During the visit, spanning barely half a day, the Indian officials met President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, and held discussions on New Delhi's ongoing assistance, of over $3.5 billion since January 2022, to the island nation. Indian assistance so far has been extended by way of currency swaps, loan deferments and credit lines for essential imports.

Staunch backing: The Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra meeting Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Colombo has sought a further $500 million from New Delhi to import fuel and is awaiting a response, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe recently told *The Hindu* in an interview.

IMF talks

The Sri Lankan government is currently holding talks with a visiting delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) , on a debt restructure programme, but is also urgently looking for bridging finance to cope with the acute shortages of essentials that have left citizens struggling.

"Sri Lanka has already received essential food items, fuel, medicine, and fertilizer under the Indian credit line facility... The Indian delegation stated that the Government of India and the political authorities are committed to provide continued support to Sri Lanka," President Gotabaya's office said in a statement.

"Both parties discussed on the future course of action of the Indian aid programme to stabilize and revive the Sri Lankan economy, at length," it further said, adding that the Indian delegation arrived in the island "to consider further financial assistance" to Sri Lanka. A statement from the Indian High Commission said: "Both sides highlighted the importance of promoting India-Sri Lanka investment partnership including in the fields of infrastructure, connectivity, renewable energy, and deepening economic linkages between the two countries."

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who's in Rwanda to attend the Commonwealth Summit, met his Sri Lankan counterpart G.L. Peiris. "Talked about Commonwealth issues as well as India's support for Sri Lanka at this time," Mr. Jaishankar tweeted about the meeting.

From the beginning of this year, India has signed key bilateral agreements with Sri Lanka, to jointly develop the Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm and set up (through the National Thermal Power Corporation), a solar power plant in Sampur.

Both are located in the Eastern Province. In the renewable energy sector, India's Adani Group signed an agreement to execute projects in Mannar and Pooneryn in the Northern Province, sparking a controversy over its entry into the island's energy sector, outside of any known competitive bidding process. Colombo has defended the $ 500 million deal.

Supreme Court order expands gun rights in U.S.

Ruling follows a series of mass firings

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court said Thursday that Americans have a right to carry guns in public, a major expansion of gun rights.

The Justices' 6-3 decision follows a series of recent mass shootings and is expected to ultimately allow more people to legally carry guns on the streets of the nation's largest cities – including New York, Los Angeles and Boston – and elsewhere. About a quarter of the U.S. population lives in states expected to be affected by the ruling, the high court's first major gun decision in more than a decade.

The ruling comes as Congress is actively working on gun legislation following recent mass shootings in Texas, New York and California.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the majority that the Constitution protects "an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defence outside the home."

In their decision, the Justices struck down a New York law requiring people to demonstrate a particular need for carrying a gun in order to get a license to carry one in public. The Justices said the requirement violates the Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms."

California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island all have similar laws. The Biden administration had urged the Justices to uphold New York's law.

Backers of New York's law had argued that striking it down would ultimately lead to more guns on the streets and higher rates of violent crime. The decision comes at a time when gun violence already on the rise during the coronavirus pandemic has spiked anew.

The Supreme Court last issued a major gun decision in 2010. In that decision and a ruling from 2008 the Justices established a nationwide right to keep a gun at home for self-defense.

Head of Iran's IRGC intel unit sacked

REUTERS

Iran has dismissed the powerful chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' (IRGC) intelligence unit, Hossein Taeb, Iranian state TV reported on Thursday, days after Israeli media accused him of being behind an alleged Iranian plot to kill or abduct Israeli tourists in Turkey.

The station gave no reason for the change, but said Mr. Taeb had been appointed as an advisor to the Guards' Commander-in-Chief Hossein Salami. He will be replaced by Mohammad Kazemi, previously head of the Revolutionary Guards Intelligence Protection unit.

Israel raised its Istanbul travel advisory to the highest alert level on June 13 because of what it said was a threat to Israelis vacationing in Turkey. Before becoming the Guards Intelligence Chief, Mr. Taeb worked at the office of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Afghans search for survivors in rubble, day after massive quake

Villagers rush to bury the dead; toll could be at least 1,000

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GAYAN

Villagers rushed to bury the dead Thursday and dug by hand through the rubble of their homes in search of survivors of a powerful earthquake in eastern Afghanistan that killed at least 1,000 people the previous day.

The Taliban and the international community that fled their takeover struggled to bring help to the disaster's victims.

Aftershock of hunger: Bags of bread brought by a Taliban helicopter for victims in Gayan on Thursday. • REUTERS

Under a leaden sky in Paktika province, which was the epicentre of Wednesday's magnitude 6 earthquake, men dug a line of graves in one village, as they tried to lay the dead to rest quickly in line with Muslim tradition. In one courtyard, bodies lay wrapped in plastic to protect them from the rains that are hampering relief efforts for the living.

The quake was Afghanistan's deadliest in two decades, and, with the full extent of the destruction among the villages tucked in the mountains only slowly coming to light, officials said the toll could rise.

An estimated 1,500 others were reported injured, the state-run *Bakhtar News Agency* said.

Biden has 'no problem' talking human rights to foreign leaders

WH 'can't speak' of the Biden-Modi meet agenda

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Asked whether U.S. President Joe Biden would press Prime Minister Narendra Modi "to protect" India's Muslims, when the two meet virtually in July at a summit, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre did not say he would, but said that President had "no problem" talking human rights with foreign leaders.

"He [Mr. Biden] has no problem talking to leaders about humanitarian rights, about freedoms, about the importance of democracy. This is something that the President has done in the past. I can't speak to, specifically, what's going to be on the agenda and what their conversation is going to be," Ms. Jean-Pierre said, at the White House briefing on Wednesday.

She also said Mr. Biden was a "straight shooter" and speaks "very frankly". "And when it comes to humanitarian rights, has no problem having those direct conversations – leader-leader conversations," she said.

House demolition

Ms. Pierre was also asked if the White House had a comment on Indian authorities demolishing the houses of those protesting against comments made against the Prophet. She did not answer the question.

The Prime Minister and President Biden are expected to meet virtually during Mr. Biden's July 13-16 trip to West Asia. The leaders will meet at a virtual 'I2U2' summit – a four country group comprised of India, Israel, the U.S. and the UAE. Mr. Modi is also attending the Group of Seven meeting in Schloss Elmau, Germany, on June 26-27, where Mr. Biden will also be present.

'Russia captures Donbas villages near Severodonetsk'

Ukraine says it had a population of 1,00,000

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Ukraine said on Thursday that its troops lost control over two settlements in the eastern Donbas region where it is fighting fiercely to retain control of the twin cities of Severodonetsk and Lysychansk.

"We lost control over Loskutivka and Rai-Oleksandrivka," said the Lugansk regional governor, Sergiy Gaiday, referring to two hamlets south east of Lysychansk.

Their capture puts Russian troops deeper in the Donbas region where they appear closer to encircling the two urban hubs which are separated by the Donets river. Mr. Gaiday added that Russian forces were working to capture Severodonetsk, an industrial town with a pre-war population of around 1,00,000 where Ukrainian and Russian troops have been fighting in a brutal stand-off for weeks.

The Lugansk regional governor said Moscow's army was "conducting offensive operations to encircle our troops in the Lysychansk area, and are blocking the Lysychansk-Bakhmut route," a key lifeline out of the embattled area. The Russians are "storming Syrotyne," he added, referring to a settlement adjacent to Severodonetsk's southern edges.

Suu Kyi moved to solitary confinement

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YANGON

Ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi remained in strong spirits after being transferred from house arrest to prison, a source with knowledge of the case said on Thursday.

Since being deposed in a coup last year, Ms. Suu Kyi had been under house arrest at an undisclosed location in Naypyidaw, accompanied by several domestic staff and her dog, according to sources.

"Her future trial hearings would take place inside a courtroom within the prison compound," junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
TD/TM/GEN-225(Vol-IV)/22/1094 dtd. 07.06.2022
Name of the work :- " **Allotment of 07 (Seven) nos. of Manual Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet Plots**".
License Fees : **Rs.2,36,09,322/-** .
Wharfage Fees : **Rs.6,83,484/-**
Last date & time of submission of bid : **28.06.2022 up to 16:00 hrs.**
Date and time of opening (technical bid): **28.06.2022 up to 16:00 hrs.**
Refer our website for details : **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Traffic Manager
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/166/22-23, Dtd.23.06.2022

E-mail.ID-sectorb_2006@yahoo.co.in ; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751
Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e' – PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B)3/2022-23
1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road works as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 04 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Road Works
4. Class of contractor : 'A', Special & Super Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid documents in the web site : From 30.06.2022 to 16.00 Hours of 15.07.2022
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 16.07.2022 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.
Sd/- P.K.Pradhan
Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle
B-307; OIPR-34012/11/0004/2223

T.S.R.T.C
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.PSO(c)-II/20/WATER BOTTLES/2022-23, dt.22.6.2022
Sealed Tenders (Complete in all respects) are invited from the Manufacturers only for supply of the following items so as to reach the Purchase Officer(C)-II, TSRTC, 3rd Floor, B-Block, Bus Bhavan, Mushirabad, Hyderabad-500020.
1. Packaged drinking water bottles with sizes of 250ml, 500ml & of 1 Litre bottles as per the BIS specification IS:14543:2016 to deliver to TSRTC Zonal Stores/HYD (Uppal) & Zonal Stores Karimnagar with TSRTC Label and Brand as approved by TSRTC from the Manufacturers of Packaged Drinking Water.
The Tenderers shall download the Tender Form, terms and conditions (with relevant details) from our Website https://tsrtc.telangana.gov.in (Tenders).
The filled in tender documents shall be submitted along with the EMD and tender fee by way of DD to the Purchase Officer(C)-II, TSRTC, 3rd Floor, B-Block, Bus Bhavan, Mushirabad, Hyderabad on or before 15.00hrs on **12.7.2022**. Corporation reserves the right to reject/cancel any tender/all the tenders.
R.O. No. : 314-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 Date: 23-06-2022 Sd/- CHIEF CONTROLLER OF STORES

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-22185)
Tender Enquiry No. 258/SS-II(D) (under Vendor Development Policy) — Dated: 22.06.2022
SE/Sub-Station(Design)/ TS Organization, C-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 100 nos. 11KV VCB Panels (SCADA-Compatible) under **PSPCL VENDOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY**. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 24.06.2022 (09:00 AM onwards).
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C 241/22 76155/12/945/2021/15161

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
MAHATHMA GANDHI HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
No.: KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT12494 Date: 14.06.2022
ABSTRACT "e" SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)
Bids in two covers are invited through e-Procurement Portal **(Website: URL:https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** for the work of **Design, Fabrication, Supply, Testing, Installation & Commissioning of one of slip ring set for 1st and 2nd stage Generators each at MGHE power house**, from regular manufacturer/supplier/firm/agency and shall have proven experience in the field of repair and rectification of slip rings to power utilities as specified in the Pre-Qualifying Requirement in "e" tender notification. E.M.D: **Rs. 29,750/-**. Last Date & Time for on-line submission of tenders: **14.07.2022 upto 16:00Hrs.** Opening the Technical Bid: **15.07.2022 at 16:30 Hrs.** Further information if required can be obtained from office of the **Executive Engineer (EM&O), MGHE Works, KPCL, Jog Falls-577 435, Sagar - Taluk, Shimoga - District, Karnataka.** Mobile No. : **9449598853.**

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No.4335/OSMCL/2022 Date : 22.06.2022
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES FROM PROSPECTIVE DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES THROUGH EMPANELMENT TO CONDUCT MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY TESTS OF SAMPLES COLLECTED AT VARIOUS GOVT. HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
Online Bids through e-Tender portal **(https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders to conduct **molecular pathology tests of samples collected at various Govt. Healthcare Facilities** as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2022-23/EMPANELMENT MOLECULAR TESTS/05	Procurement Of Diagnostic Services From Prospective Diagnostic Centres Through Empanelment To Conduct Molecular Pathology Tests of Samples Collected At various Govt. Healthcare Facilities	5,600/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	22.06.2022, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	29.06.2022, 11 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 04.07.2022, 3 PM	End Date & Time: 21.07.2022, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	25.07.2022, 3 PM	
5.	Date of demonstration of Equipment (If required by the Tender Inviting Authority for some equipments)	To be informed to those bidders whose bids are found to be technically responsive based on documents furnished in technical bid.	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and other terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . OSMCL reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.
Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha
CAD-899 OIPR-10112/11/0022/2223

DIGITAL UNIVERSITY KERALA
Curating a responsible digital world
Presents
THE HINDU EDUCATION PLUS
CAREER COUNSELLING SERIES
A WEBINAR ON
EMERGING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Dr. Saji Gopinath
Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology

Shruti George
Vice President, Sustainability & Innovation, Avery Dennison, Netherlands

Anukripa Elango
Educator, (Moderator)

Saturday, 25th June 2022 @ 5:00 PM
To register visit **bit.ly/DUKthe** or Scan the QR code

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Internship Programme 2022-23
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the **"Internship Programme 2022-23"** at Finance Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. The programme details are below:

Name of the programme	Nos.	Age Limit (as on 24.06.2022)	Duration	Monthly Stipend
Internship Programme 2022-23	20	22-30 years **Age relaxation** SC/ST – upto 35 years BC/MBC – upto 33 years	1 year	Rs.20000/-

Eligibility:
- Post-graduates/students pursuing doctoral programmes in majors: Economics, Finance, Law, Commerce, Management, Information Technology, and Statistics. Candidates must have attained at least distinction (75% or a CGPA of 7.5) in their post-graduate degree.
- Working knowledge of Tamil is mandatory

Selection Process:
- Online Assessment (Computer-Based Test) and Personal Interview

Location: The selected candidates will be assigned work in Chennai in various areas of the Finance Department.
Academic Partner: Bharathidasan Institute of Management (BIM), Tiruchirappalli.
The application opens on **24th June 2022,** and the last date for application submission is **July 01, 2022**. There is no application fee. For more details and **to apply online**, please visit **www.bim.edu/tnfdinternship** . Applications other than online mode will not be accepted.
Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.
DIPR /601/ Display / 2022

MARKET WATCH

	23-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,266	0.86
US Dollar	78.32	–
Gold	50,719	-0.45
Brent oil	110.51	-0.79

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	675.30	7.00
Apollo Hosp	3850.50	62.75
Asian Paints	2758.20	91.85
Axis Bank	629.35	2.55
Bajaj Auto	3784.80	149.15
Bajaj Finserv	11552.85	117.10
Bajaj Finance	5448.15	8.55
Bharti Airtel	660.20	17.35
BPCL	307.90	2.00
Britannia Ind	3411.45	7.80
Cipla	933.35	16.45
Coal India	177.15	-2.20
Divis Lab	3666.30	66.70
Dr Reddys Lab	4294.90	34.00
Eicher Motors	2819.05	156.30
Grasim Ind	1316.05	-8.85
HCL Tech	971.25	9.95
HDFC	2164.20	4.95
HDFC Bank	1335.15	4.90
HDFC Life	558.10	6.30
Hero MotoCorp	2674.10	149.65
Hindalco	317.60	1.15
Hind Unilever	2252.60	49.75
ICICI Bank	699.15	12.55
Indusind Bank	784.95	7.30
Infosys	1452.45	15.20
ITC	265.50	0.20
JSW Steel	558.95	8.55
Kotak Bank	1684.10	14.40
L&T	1494.30	15.55
M&M	1027.70	43.90
Maruti Suzuki	8271.00	488.25
Nestle India Ltd.	16976.30	201.15
NTPC	136.50	-1.15
ONGC	134.80	-0.05
PowerGrid Corp	208.55	-2.10
Reliance Ind	2464.95	-40.65
SBI Life	1073.85	3.40
State Bank	451.40	3.75
Shree Cement	18553.60	96.85
Sun Pharma	824.90	15.60
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	718.45	9.50
Tata Motors	407.20	14.10
Tata Steel	841.30	3.20
TCS	3308.80	85.85
Tech Mahindra	991.10	11.10
Titan	2041.40	10.20
UltraTech Cement	5410.30	0.35
UPL	633.20	19.55
Wipro	419.05	7.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	78.10	78.42
Euro	81.99	82.33
British Pound	95.33	95.72
Japanese Yen (100)	57.59	57.83
Chinese Yuan	11.64	11.70
Swiss Franc	80.82	81.16
Singapore Dollar	56.16	56.40
Canadian Dollar	60.24	60.49
Malaysian Ringitt	17.72	17.80
Australian Dollar	53.79	54.01

Source: Indian Bank

Hero MotoCorp to increase prices

NEW DELHI

Two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp on Thursday said it will raise prices of motorcycles and scooters by up to ₹3,000 from July 1. PTI

Govt. said to aim to keep deficit at 6.7%

Centre to miss Budget deficit goal of 6.4%, will seek to cap fiscal slippage within last year's level: officials

REUTERS
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

India's government will not be able to cut its budget deficit this fiscal year as previously projected, officials said, but will seek to cap the shortfall at last year's level to prevent a major deterioration in public finances.

Efforts to maintain fiscal discipline reflect New Delhi's concern around risks to its sovereign credit rating but will likely limit the government's firepower to check inflation and provide relief to households and businesses.

In February, the government set a fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of GDP for the year to March 2023, compared with a deficit of 6.7% in the last financial year.

The sources said that while increased spending to provide relief from inflation meant the government would miss this year's target, policymakers would seek to limit the deviation to 30 basis points.

"We will try to contain the slippage to last year's levels," one of the officials, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

Surging costs forced India in May to cut fuel taxes and change duty structures, hitting revenues by about $19.16 billion, while added fertiliser subsidies lifted expenditure.

The government and central bank have scrambled to contain prices through fiscal measures and monetary tightening after inflation jumped to multi-year highs.

Kid gloves: Government is wary of the risks fiscal slippage poses to its sovereign credit ratings, borrowing costs. •REUTERS

Risks of slippage

The government is wary of the risks fiscal slippage poses to its sovereign credit ratings. Its debt to GDP ratio, which stands at about 95%, is significantly higher than the 60-70% levels for other, similarly rated economies.

That leaves the government little room to provide additional relief, as the May measures are already expected to drive up the deficit by more than 30 basis points if revenue collection does not exceed the budget target.

"The government can definitely do more but at what cost? If more steps are taken, it will require additional market borrowing and that will drive up yields and eventually cause higher inflation," said a second source who is aware of the discussions.

The government is reluctant to expand its record market borrowing programme of ₹14.31 lakh crore this fiscal, both officials said.

"From here on, monetary policy will bear the larger burden of initiating inflation-growth corrective balance," said Shubhada Rao, senior economist and founder of QuantEco Research. "The first quarter has been good in terms of tax collection, but... the excise cut could neutralise it," she added.

RBI moots IT outsourcing norms for banks, NBFCs

Aim is to ring-fence entities from risks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Thursday proposed norms for the outsourcing of IT services to ring-fence banks and other regulated entities from financial, operational and reputational risks.

"The underlying principle... is that the RE should ensure that outsourcing arrangements neither diminish its ability to fulfil its obligations to customers nor impede effective supervision by the supervising authority," the RBI said in its draft Master Direction on Outsourcing of Information Technology Services, on which it has invited comments by July 22.

Regulated entities including cooperative banks, credit information companies and NBFCs would be required to put in place a comprehensive board-approved IT outsourcing policy.

Outsourcing must not diminish the RE's ability to meet its obligations

"Outsourcing of any activity of the RE shall not diminish its obligations as also of its Board and senior management, who shall be ultimately responsible for the outsourced activity.

"RE shall take steps to ensure that the service provider employs the same high standard of care in performing the services as would have been employed by the RE if the same activity was not outsourced," it said.

Sensex rises 1% as auto, IT stocks gain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Equity indices gained almost 1% led by buying in auto and IT stocks.

The S&P BSE Sensex surged 443.19 points, or 0.86%, to 52,265.72 points.

The stocks which gained the most included Maruti (6.33%), M&M (4.41%), Asian Paints (3.39%), Bharti Airtel (2.76%), TCS (2.70%) and Wipro (1.97%).

"The markets are largely dancing to the global tunes in the absence of any major domestic event and we expect the same trend to continue," said Ajit Mishra, vice president, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. "We reiterate our cautious view and suggest focusing more on stock selection and risk management."

AI can add $500 bn to GDP by 2025: Nasscom

Investments may touch $881 mn by '23

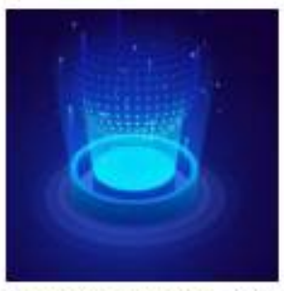
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Nasscom has introduced "AI Adoption Index" in a bid to assess trends of AI adoption in India.

The index was the first detailed assessment of AI adoption, beginning with four key sectors of banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), consumer packaged goods (CPG), retail, healthcare and industrials and automotive.

These sectors could cumulatively contribute more than 60% of AI's potential value-add of $450 to $500 billion to the country's GDP by 2025, said Nasscom in a media conference.

The apex body said global investments in AI had more than doubled over the last couple of years, from $36 billion in 2020 to a high of $77 billion in 2021.



Though AI investments in India were growing at a CAGR of 30.8% and poised to touch $881 million by 2023, it would still represent just 2.5% of the total global AI investments of $340 billion. This would mean a massive opportunity for Indian enterprises to drive investments and adopt AI.

VIL defers ₹8,837-cr. AGR dues payment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden telco Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL) has decided to defer payment of additional adjusted gross revenue of ₹8,837 crore dues by four years.

The telco, in a late night filing on June 22, said that the DoT, on June 15, had raised adjusted gross revenue (AGR) demand for additional two financial years beyond 2016-17, which were not covered under the Supreme Court order on the statutory dues.

VIL said its board of directors "has approved the exercise of the option of deferment of the AGR-related dues by a period of four years with immediate effect, in accordance with the said DoT letter."

Brakes India rolls out 'green' castings for Volvo

Castings to be used in engines globally

N. ANAND
NAIDUPETA (AP)

Brakes India has developed and rolled out 'green' castings for Volvo India that will be used for the Swedish auto major's engines globally.

"Initially, we will develop green castings for Volvo that will go into engines for commercial vehicles and off-highway vehicles and later for others," said Sriram Viji, MD, Brakes India.

"We will churn out more than 1,80,000 tonnes of iron castings annually using environment-friendly manufacturing processes."

The 'green' castings from India will include bearing caps and bearing housing for Volvo engines, said Brakes India officials.

Commercial production of the castings at Brakes India Naidupeta facility would start from this month.

Sriram Viji (left) with Volvo's Kamal Bali. •BIJOY GHOSH

Brakes India would use scrap, alloys and raw materials, which are 100% radioactive-element free.

The reduction in CO2 emissions per year on account of 'green' castings would amount to 0.86 million tonnes for Volvo.

Tata Motors, govt. to probe Nexon EV fire

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. said it was conducting a detailed investigation into a reported fire incident involving a Tata Nexon electric vehicle (EV) in a Mumbai suburb.

A video of a white Nexon EV engulfed in flames had gone viral on social media, prompting the automobile maker's reaction.

"A detailed investigation is being conducted to ascertain the facts of the recent isolated thermal incident," Tata Motors said.

Separately, the Press Trust of India reported, quoting a senior Road Transport and Highways Ministry official, that the government had ordered an independent enquiry into the incident.

SPORT

Popovici and McIntosh grab the limelight

Medley double for Marchand; Ledecky's gold harvest continues

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BUDAPEST

Two teenagers – 17-year-old David Popovici and Summer McIntosh (15) – were the centre of attention at the World Swimming Championships on Wednesday.

Popovici claimed victory in the men's 100m freestyle, and McIntosh won the women's 200m butterfly.

In the other individual finals, 20-year-old Frenchman Leon Marchand completed the men's medley double in the 200m and Kylie Masse won a second Canadian gold when she took the 50m women's backstroke.

The evening ended with another of the U.S. team's veteran stars, Katie Ledecky, carving a place in the record books with the winning women's 200m relay team. It was Ledecky's 21st world championship medal, more than any other woman.

Australia took silver while Canada, with McIntosh collecting a second medal of the day, held on for bronze.

Popovici, who became the first Romanian man to win a World title when he took the 200m freestyle, became the first man to do the 100-200 freestyle double at the Worlds since American Jim Montgomery in 1973.

Dutchman Pieter van den Hoogenband repeated the feat at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

At 15, McIntosh is even younger. The Canadian broke the world junior record as she added the 200m butterfly to the silver she had won in the 400m freestyle on the opening day.

The results: Men: 100m freestyle: 1. David Popovici (Rou) 47.58s; 2. Maxime Grousset (Fra) 47.64s; 3. Joshua Liendo Edwards (Can) 47.71s.

200m medley: 1. Leon Marchand (Fra) 1:55.22s; 2. Carson Foster (USA) 1:55.71s; 3. Daiya Seto (Jpn) 1:56.22s.

Rare feat: Popovici became the first man to do the 100-200 freestyle double since 1973. •REUTERS

Women 200m butterfly: 1. Summer McIntosh (Can) 2:05.20s; 2. Hali Flickinger (USA) 2:06.08s; 3. Zhang Yufei (Chn) 2:06.32s.

50m backstroke: Kylie Masse (Can) 27.31s; 2. Katherine Berkoff (USA) 27.39s; 3. Analia Pigree (Fra) 27.40s.

4x200m relay: 1. USA (7:41.45s **(MR)**; 2. Australia 7:43.86s; 3. Canada 7:44.76s.

Gold for Srihari, Mihir and Aneesh

SPORTS BUREAU

Olympian Srihari Nataraj, Mihir Ambre and Aneesh Gowda won golds in the 17th Singapore National swimming championships on Thursday.

National record holder Nataraj clocked 55.32s for the 100m backstroke gold while Ambre produced a personal best 24.66s for the 50m butterfly title. Meanwhile, Gowda won the 800m freestyle gold in 8:14.08s.

The results (Indian medallists only):

Men: 800m free: 1. Aneesh Gowda (8:14.08s). 50m butterfly: 1. Mihir Ambre (24.66s). 100m back: 1. Srihari Nataraj (55.32s), 3. Sridhar Siva (57.58).

Women: 100m back: 2. Maana Patel (1:04.47s).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (final), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs Australia: 5th ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m.
England vs New Zealand: 3rd Test, day 2, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
U-17 Women's World Cup: Final Draw, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 3.30 p.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 2nd Test, day 1, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Sweden edges out India under-23 squad

STOCKHOLM

The Indian under-23 women's football team lost to Sweden 1-0 in the three-nation tournament here on Wednesday. Linn Vickius scored the winner in the 96th minute. India will take on the USA on June 25.

Italy routs women's U-17 football team

UDINE (ITALY)

The Under-17 women's football team meanwhile suffered a humiliating 7-0 defeat against Italy in the opening match of a four-nation tournament here. PTI

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Akaash and Judy reign supreme

Akaash Ashok Kumar defeated Girish Gaba 336-324 in the final of the Karnataka State-ranking tenpin bowling tournament here on Thursday.

In the finals played based on cumulative pinfall of two games format, Girish took a slender lead of 13 pins in Game 1 (185-172) only for Akaash to fight back in Game 2 by scoring 164 to Girish's 139.

In the women's final, Judy Alban emerged the winner after gaining a strong lead of 58 pins in Game 1 (169- 111), enough to thwart a comeback in Game 2 from J. Preemal (168-150) to eventually win 319-279.

Special prizes: Men: Highest average in 6-game block: Akaash (214.00); **18-game block:** Akaash (197.94); **Women: Highest average in 6-game block:** Preemal (171.50); **12-game block:** Preemal (163.67).

Milind stars in Jawans' facile win

Milind Mali's match haul of nine wickets (3/29 & 6/94) helped Jawans CC register a nine-wicket win over Friends Union CC (2) in the KSCA (Group I) second division league tournament.

The scores: Friends Union CC (2) 103 in 39 overs (Ravi Kairav Reddy 39, Milind Mali 3/29, Abrar Kazi 3/2) & 179 in 42.3 overs (Rohan M.Yareshmi 40, Ravi Kairav Reddy 31, Rajendra S.Danganavar 69 n.o., Milind Mali 6/94) lost to Jawans CC 241/4 decl. in 42 overs (M.B. Shivam 103, Abrar Kazi 62) & 43/1 in 5.2 overs (Harshil 29 n.o.).

Champions: Akaash and Judy with their big prize. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bangalore Cricketers 328/8 in 90 overs (M. Tanush 29, Rahul Kulkarni 32, R. Akshay 91, Shivratna 111 n.o., D. Bharath 31, Adithya Nair 4/55) drew with Jawahar SC (1) 217 in 57.1 overs (S.U. Karthik 25, Amod S.Kaluve 52, Sourab Muttur 39, V. Prithvi 32, K.C. Cariappa 25, Kushal Pramesh 7/79).

Jupiter CA 117 in 33.2 overs (R. Suhas 36, Preetham 49, N.S. Sachin 4/19, M.P. Samarth 3/28) & 170/9 in 65 overs (L. Hemanth Kumar 28 n.o., Chirag R.Nayak 74, N.S. Sachin 4/37) drew with Jawahar SC (2) 244 in 73.5 overs (K. Rakshith 62, Faizan Khan 53, Rohith Sundar 31, Abhinoam G. Jacob 4/76).

Bangalore SC 282 in 85.5 overs (Amay Tejas 50, Vishal Kothari 29, Anupam 87, Chandan S.Gujjar 29 n.o., V.S. Siddharth 6/64) drew with Wilson Garden CC 217 in 85.2 overs (Srujan Nandan 74, Yashwant 33, S.A. Sachin 32, Angadraj S. Hittalamani 3/45, Vishal Kothari 4/51).

Karateka Jagruth claims gold

Bengaluru teenager Jagruth secured a gold medal in the 16-17 years category at the All-India karate championship 2022 held in Pune recently. Jagruth, a national medallist for the last five years, participated in the seniors kata for the first time this year.

Ashwin, Angu net a brace as Bishop Cotton wins big

Ashwin Sunil and K. Angu Vijay scored a brace each as Bishop Cotton Boys HS beat Ryan International 5-1 in the CISCE Regional Pre Subroto Cup football tournament.

The results: St. Joseph BHS 4 (Kanika Anil 2, 27, Ajai Arjun 9, 29) bt Vibgyor HS, MarathaHalli 0; New Shams School 3 (Madani 13, Afham Musba 29, 30) bt Sishu Griha Sch 0; Green Wood HS 5 (Siddharth Jayanth 3, 50+2, Aarush Pathak 5, Adarsh Abey 10, 30) bt Baldwin Boys HS 3 (Y. Rohit 24, S. Arush 25, 40); Bishop Cotton Boys HS 5 (N. Tejas 10, Ashwin Sunil 16, 31. K. Angu Vijay 45, 50) bt Ryan Intl 1 (Mahdhar 21).

Easy for Team Terretstrials

Team Terrestrials defeated Team Fearless 6-1 in the Bangalore Squash League.

State B-division basketball league from July 9

Karnataka State Basketball Association will conduct the State B-division league championship from July 9 to 16 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

Jayanagar SC, BSNL SC, Bharat Sports Union, KSP, Rajmahal SC, Raising Stars BC, Devanga Union SC, Protech Association, Koramangala SC and BOSCH SC will be the participating teams.

Payas and Bodhisatwa claim honours

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ALAPPUZHA

Delhi's Payas Jain warded off a stiff challenge from teammate Yashansh Malik to win 2-11, 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-6 and defend his under-19 youth title in the 83rd National junior and youth table tennis championships here on Thursday.

Qualifier Bodhisatwa Chaudhhay (Bengal) upstaged sixth seed Preyesh Raj Suresh (TNTTA) 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-5, 13-11 to win the boys under-17 title.

Semifinal results: Under-19: Payas bt Ankur Bhattacharjee (Ben) 11-9, 13-11, 12-10, 11-4; Yashansh bt Deepit R. Patil (Mah) 11-5, 6-11, 11-13, 11-8, 11-7, 12-10.

Under-17: Preyesh bt K. Yengkhom (Man) 11-8, 11-4, 7-11, 12-10, 11-6; Bodhisatwa bt Bajaj Shlok (Guj) 11-5, 11-8, 6-11, 11-6, 11-4.

Kadhe-Cerretani exit

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Arjun Kadhe and Jamie Cerretani were beaten 6-3, 2-6, [10-5] in the doubles quarterfinals by Sanjar Fayziev and Evgeny Karlovskiy in the €45,730 Challenger tennis tournament in Oeiras, Portugal.

Other results: $25,000 ITF women, Prokuplje, Serbia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Zhibek Kulambayeva (Kaz) & Prarthana Thombare bt Daria Lodikova & Luisa Meyer auf der Heide (Ger) 7-5, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF: Chiang Rai, Thailand: Men: Doubles (quarterfinals): Rishi Reddy & Parikshit Somani bt Cui Jie (Chn) & Tsung-Hao Huang (Tpe) 6-1, 2-6, [10-8].

Women: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Ramu Ueda (Jpn) bt Laalitya Kalluri 6-0, 6-0; Anastasiya Poplavska (Ukr) bt Priyanshi Bhandari 6-2, 6-3; Natsui Kawaguchi (Jpn) bt Vanshita Pathania 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Xun Fang Ying (Chn) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi bt Nana Kawagishi & Chihiro Takayama (Jpn) 6-2, 6-3.

Indian women draw first blood

Bowlers choke the Sri Lankan batters as visitors pull off a convincing win

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAMBULLA

The Indian bowlers choked the Sri Lankan women's team, after Jemimah Rodrigues' vital knock on return, to secure a convincing 34-run victory in the first T20I here on Thursday.

Defending a modest 139, left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (two for 22) made her presence felt right after the PowerPlay by dismissing the dangerous-looking Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu (16) and Harsihtha Madavi (10) in the space of three balls.

Reduced to 27 for three inside seven overs, Sri Lanka never managed to get going in the chase. Seamer Pooja Vastrakar further derailed the chase in the middle overs, finishing with a tidy spell of 4-1-13-1.

Back with a bang: Jemimah, returning to the Indian side, played a vital knock. • SRI LANKA CRICKET

Great start

Deepti Sharma gave India a flying start, dismissing opener Vishmi Gunaratne (0) in the second over. The senior off-spinner (3-1-9-1) put Sri Lanka on the back foot early on.

Deepti also took a stunning catch running in from deep square-leg to give Radha her second wicket of the day.

Kavisha Dilhari waged a lone battle for the hosts with a fighting 49-ball 47 (6x4), but the Indians' top-class bowling and fielding ensured their team emerged an easy winner to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Earlier, opting to bat, India lost opener Smriti Mandhana (1) in the third over of the game, the 25-year-old falling to veteran spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe while looking to free her arms.

S. Meghana was out for a golden duck, sent back by old warhorse Ranasinghe.

Having lost two wickets early, it was left to the duo of Harmanpreet and Shafali Verma to take control.

A well-settled Shafali was the next to go, dismissed by Aththapatu on 31.

The Lankans soon got their biggest breakthrough when Harmanpreet (22) was trapped in front by spinner Inoka Ranaweera in the 11th over.

Ranaweera picked two more wickets as she sent back wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh (11) and Pooja Vastrakar (14) to reduce the visitors to 106 for six in 17 overs. Jemimah was left with the task of giving the Indian total a semblance of respectability.

The scores:

India: Shafali Verma c de Silva b Athapaththu 31 (*31b, 4x4*), Smriti Mandhana c Athapaththu b Ranasinghe 1 (*6b*), S. Meghana c Athapaththu b Ranasinghe 0 (*1b*), Harmanpreet Kaur lbw b Ranaweera 22 (*20, 3x4*), Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 36 (*27, 3x4, 1x6*), Richa Ghosh st Sanjeewani b Ranaweera 11 (*15b, 1x4*), Pooja Vastrakar b Ranaweera 14 (*12, 2x4*), Deepti Sharma (not out) 17 (*8b, 3x4*); Extras (lb-1, w-5): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 138.

Fall of wickets: 1-17 (Smriti, 3.3 overs), 2-17 (Meghana, 3.4), 3-56 (Shafali, 9.2), 4-58 (Harmanpreet, 10.1), 5-81 (Richa, 14.1 ov), 6-106 (Pooja, 16.6).

Sri Lanka bowling: Prabhodani 4-0-21-0, Sugandika 3-0-18-0, Ranasinghe 3-0-22-2, Kanchana 1-0-8-0, Ranaweera 4-0-30-3, Aththapatu 2-0-7-1, Dilhari 3-0-31-0.

Sri Lanka: Vishmi Gunaratne lbw b Deepti 1 (*5b*), Chamari Athapaththu c Rajeshwari b Radha 16 (*19, 2x4*), Harshitha Madavi c Deepti b Radha 10 (*17, 1x4*), Kavisha Dilhari (not out) 47 (*49, 6x4*) Nilakshi de Silva c Harmanpreet b Pooja 8 (*11, 1x4*), Ama Kanchana st. Richa b Shafali 11 (*11, 1x4*), Anushka Sanjeewani (not out) 10 (*8b, 1x4*); Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 104.

Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Gunaratne, 1.2 overs), 2-27 (Athapaththu, 6.3), 3-27 (Madavi, 6.5), 4-54 (de Silva, 12.4), 5-86 (Kanchana, 17.5).

India bowling: Renuka 4-0-25-0, Deepti 3-1-9-1, Radha 4-0-22-2, Pooja 4-1-13-1, Rajeshwari 1-0-7-0, Harmanpreet 2-0-17-0, Shafali 2-0-10-1.

Toss: India.

Player-of-the-Match: Jemimah.

India won by 34 runs.

Second T20I: June 25, Dambulla.

Talking to Rohit, Pant helped: Jemimah

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

The last few months hadn't been easy for Jemimah Rodrigues. Neither was the wicket at Dambulla on Thursday.

It may not have been the most ideal of tracks for a batter to come back into international cricket, but Jemimah produced a fine knock (36 n.o., 27b) that helped India win the first T20I against Sri Lanka.

The innings would have done a world of good to her confidence.

She had been dropped from the Indian team for the Women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand.

"After the last Sri Lanka tour, my journey has not been very smooth," Jemimah said. "There have been ups and downs and it was not easy."

She said she benefited from speaking to Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant during that tough phase.

"They said these moments helped you prepare for something greater that was coming [to you]," she said.

"These are the moments that define you as a cricketer."

She said she had become calmer now. "The last few months helped me understand my game even better," she said.

Bharat impresses after top order falters

Kohli scores 33; skipper Rohit and Gill fall after getting starts

INDIA IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LEICESTER

Wicketkeeper K.S. Bharat impressed with an unbeaten 70, even as India's top order failed to get batting practice on the first day of their warm-up match against Leicestershire here on Thursday.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, India's top guns failed to fire as the visitors slipped to 81 for five.

Useful knock: Bharat made good use of the opportunity to score an unbeaten 70. • REUTERS

Rain brings early end

However, Bharat shone during his 158-minute stay in the middle before rain brought an early end to the day's proceedings. At stumps, Mohammed Shami was giving Bharat company on 18.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (25) and Shubman Gill (21) got out after getting starts. The opening duo, which is set to begin India's innings in the one-off 'fifth Test', added 35 runs for the first wicket. Virat Kohli scored 33.

India's first-choice wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, who was representing the English county side alongside Cheteshwar Pujara, Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna, held on to the catch of Gill, who found the fence four times.

For the addition of another 15 runs, India lost the wicket of Rohit, who hit three fours during his 64-minute stay in the middle. Rohit's departure paved the way for Kohli's arrival, and the former India captain looked to take the onus upon himself to prop up India.

In between, Hanuma Vihari (3) departed cheaply off the bowling of Roman Walker. Shreyas Iyer failed to open his account and walked back to the dressing room after facing 11 balls, having nicked Prasidh to Pant.

Ashwin joins team

Senior off-spinner R. Ashwin, who did not travel to the United Kingdom along with his India teammates after testing positive for Covid, has joined the side here, according to sources.

The scores:

Indians — 1st innings: Rohit Sharma c Sakande b Walker 25, Shubman Gill c Pant b Davis 21, Hanuma Vihari c Bates b Walker 3, Virat Kohli lbw b Walker 33, Shreyas Iyer c Pant b Prasidh 0, Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Walker 13, K.S. Bharat (batting) 70, Shardul Thakur b Walker 6, Umesh Yadav c Evison b Davis 23, Mohd. Shami (batting) 18; Extras (b-12, lb-4, w-16, nb-2): 34; Total (for eight wkts. in 60.2 overs) 246.

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-50, 3-54, 4-55, 5-81, 6-138, 7-148, 8-214.

Leicestershire bowling: Bumrah 9-1-34-0, Davis 14-1-64-2, Prasidh 10-2-37-1, Walker 11-5-24-5, Sakande 15-1-56-0, Bowley 1.2-0-15-0.

Toss: Indians.

Sarfaraz Khan lifts Mumbai with a spectacular century

He adroitly shepherds the lower order to take the team to 374; steady Madhya Pradesh closes the day on 123 for one

Rising to the occasion: Sarfaraz played percentage cricket to perfection in his three-figure knock. • K. MURALI KUMAR

RANJI FINAL

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BENGALURU

Mumbai found strength and spine through Sarfaraz Khan. The batter's 134 (243b, 13x4, 2x6) blended chutzpah and a steely resolve to help the former champion stay marginally ahead of Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy final in progress at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

At close on the second day, Madhya Pradesh scored 123 for one in its first innings while replying to Mumbai's 374.

The Madhya Pradesh openers Yash Dubey and Himanshu Mantri added 47, with the latter taking a shine to left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, hoisting two sixes.

But after tea, seamer Tushar Deshpande trapped the aggressor. Mumbai got the breakthrough but for the remainder of the last session, Dubey and Shubham Sharma batted with ease in their unfinished 76-run partnership.

Mumbai skipper Prithvi Shaw shuffled his bowlers and a few vociferous lbw appeals never found approval. In the initial skirmish for first innings honours, Dubey and Sharma kept Madhya Pradesh in the hunt, setting the stage for an interesting third day.

Earlier, resuming at the overnight 248 for five, Mumbai lost Mulani to the day's second delivery as Gaurav Yadav darted one back and ruffled the pads. From the other end, Sarfaraz watched his departing colleague and had a quiet word with next man Tanush Kotian. Importantly for Mumbai, Sarfaraz shepherded the tail and strung a series of critical partnerships. As Kotian settled, Sarfaraz lofted Yadav and swept Kumar Kartikeya across the ropes. And once the 50 was secured, he gestured to his applauding mates in the dressing room, hinting that he would stay at the pitch and guide his team.

He remained true to his word, and with Kotian, added 40 for the seventh wicket before Yadav castled the lower-order batter with a superb delivery that moved just a shade to clip the stumps.

Dhawal Kulkarni trudged in and dropped anchor, indulging in some exaggerated leaves outside the off-stump; Sarfaraz employed a short-arm pull of Yadav and as he crossed over crashed into the bowler. In severe pain as the helmet grille struck a side of his face, Sarfaraz rested a bit before getting up. He steered a four off Yadav and normal service was restored.

■ Thanks to Sarfaraz, Mumbai might believe that it has just about enough to test challenger Madhya Pradesh

Amalgam of emotions

Kulkarni perished after a 36-ball solitary run but importantly was part of a 26-run alliance with Sarfaraz. The latter scooped a four off Anubhav Agarwal and soon reached his fourth ton of the season. The ecstatic centurion presented an amalgam of emotions as he acknowledged the cheers besides doing a war-cry while gazing at the dressing room.

Mumbai had an appetising lunch score of 351 for eight and on resumption, Deshpande fell, but by then the ninth-wicket partnership had yielded 39. Sarfaraz was the last man dismissed while he attempted quick runs, a towering six being part of the package. Thanks to him, Mumbai might believe that it has just about enough to test challenger Madhya Pradesh.

The scores:

Mumbai — 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw b Agarwal 47 (*79b, 5x4, 1x6*), Yashasvi Jaiswal c Yash Dubey b Agarwal 78 (*163b, 7x4, 1x6*), Armaan Jaffer c Yash Dubey b Kartikeya 26 (*56b, 3x4*), Suved Parkar c Aditya Shrivastava b Jain 18 (*30b, 2x4*), Sarfaraz Khan c Shrivastava b Yadav 134 (*243b, 13x4, 2x6*), Hardik Tamore c Rajat Patidar b Jain 24 (*44b, 3x4*), Shams Mulani lbw b Yadav 12 (*45b, 1x4*), Tanush Kotian b Yadav 15 (*39b, 1x4*), Dhawal Kulkarni c Himanshu Mantri b Agarwal 1 (*36b*), Tushar Deshpande c Mantri b Yadav 6 (*20b, 1x4*), Mohit Avasthi (not out) 7 (*11b, 1x6*); Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-1): 6; Total (in 127.4 overs): 374.

Fall of wickets: 1-87 (Shaw, 27.4 overs), 2-120 (Armaan, 40.6), 3-147 (Parkar, 50.1), 4-185 (Jaiswal, 59.4), 5-228 (Tamore, 74.5), 6-248 (Mulani, 90.2), 7-288 (Kotian, 102.6), 8-314 (Kulkarni, 112.3), 9-353 (Deshpande, 123.4).

Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kumar Kartikeya 41-6-133-1, Anubhav Agarwal 29-5-81-3, Saransh Jain 20-2-47-2, Gaurav Yadav 35.4-8-106-4, Parth Sahani 2-0-2-0.

Madhya Pradesh — 1st innings: Yash Dubey (batting) 44 (*131b, 6x4*), Himanshu Mantri lbw b Deshpande 31 (*89m, 50b, 3x4, 2x6*), Shubham Sharma (batting) 41 (*65b, 6x4*); Extras (b-6, lb-1): 7; Total (for one wkt. in 41 overs): 123.

Fall of wickets: 1-47 (Mantri, 16.3).

Mumbai bowling: Dhawal Kulkarni 9-2-22-0, Tushar Deshpande 12-4-31-1, Shams Mulani 11-0-46-0, Mohit Avasthi 7-3-11-0, Tanush Kotian 2-0-6-0.

Sarfaraz credits knock to his father

I've had my troubled times, but *Abbu* never left my side, says a tearful batter

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan shed a few tears after reaching his century against Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy final here on Thursday. He got emotional a second time when he spoke to the media at the end of play.

Sarfaraz dedicated the knock to his father and mentor, Naushad Khan.

"*Abbu* (father) and I started my cricket journey from absolutely nothing. The dream was to play for Mumbai. Another dream was to score a century in a Ranji Trophy final. That is why I got emotional when I reached my hundred. *Abbu* gets all the credit. If he was not around, then none of this would be possible. I've had my troubled times, but *Abbu* never left my side," Sarfaraz, who could not control his tears, said.

Sarfaraz couldn't control his emotions. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Best innings

"This is my best innings in the Ranji Trophy. There are two reasons for this – it was the final, and our team was in a bit of a tricky situation. I had to stick around at the crease, even if that meant I had to face 300 balls without scoring many runs. I only thought about what the team required," Sarfaraz said.

Sarfaraz had a long chat with national selector Sunil Joshi after play. Joshi would have, no doubt, been impressed with Sarfaraz's recent form and insatiable hunger for runs.

Asked if an India call-up was on his mind, Sarfaraz said, "When I'm at the crease, my focus is purely on batting. The crowd, the live telecast... nothing matters to me. When it comes to playing for India, every human being has dreams in his life. Slowly, these dreams come true. I will try my best to realise this dream."

Determined Mitchell leads New Zealand's rally

Broad and Leach scalp two; Nicholls dismissed in bizarre fashion

NZ IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LEEDS

In-form Daryl Mitchell powered New Zealand's revival after Stuart Broad struck early for England on the first day of the third Test at Headingley on Thursday.

New Zealand was 225 for five at close of play, with Mitchell 78 not out following his hundreds at Lord's and Trent Bridge.

Broad, England's spearhead after James Anderson was ruled out with an ankle injury, removed Tom Latham in the first over of the day and then captured the prize wicket of New Zealand captain Kane Williamson during a return of two for 45 in 17 overs.

Unlucky: Nicholls was dismissed when his drive ricocheted off non-striker Mitchell's bat and lobbed to Lees. • GETTY IMAGES

Mitchell, however, held firm after coming in with New Zealand wobbling at 83 for four following Williamson's decision to bat.

He received fine support from Tom Blundell (45 not out) in an unbroken stand of 102 – their third century partnership of this series.

Devon Conway played on for 26 before Henry Nicholls, who had made 19 off 99 balls, fell in a freak fashion on the stroke of tea.

Nicholls drove hard at Leach only for the ball to deflect off non-striker Mitchell's bat and loop gently to Alex Lees at mid-off.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand — 1st innings: Tom Latham c Root b Broad 0, Will Young lbw b Leach 20, Kane Williamson c Foakes b Broad 31, Devon Conway b Overton 26, Henry Nicholls c Lees b Leach 19, Daryl Mitchell (batting) 78, Tom Blundell (batting) 45; Extras (b-4, lb-2): 6; Total (for five wkts. in 90 overs): 225.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-35, 3-62, 4-83, 5-123.

England bowling: Broad 17-5-45-2, Potts 20-7-28-0, Overton 16-2-41-1, Leach 30-8-75-2, Root 7-0-30-0.

Toss: New Zealand.

Indian recurve women's team makes final

ARCHERY WC

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian recurve women's team of Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari and Simranjeet Kaur overcame their disappointing show in the ranking round to reach the final and ensure a medal for the country in the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Paris on Thursday.

Consistent scores

The 13th-placed Indian team received a bye and beat the fourth-ranked Ukraine 5-1 and Great Britain 6-0 in the quarterfinals.

The Indians got consistent scores to oust Turkey, which upset powerhouse Korea, 5-3 in the semifinals to set up a title clash with Chinese Taipei.

The Indian recurve men's team, ranked eighth, got a first-round bye but lost to Switzerland 4-5 (25-25).

The Swiss archers shot closer to the centre in the shootoff.

The second-ranked V. Jyothi Surekha got past Portugal's Johana Horta de Oliveira 147-133, Italy's Elisa Bazzichetto 150-141 and Marcella Tonioli 146-144 and Estonia's Lisell Jaatma 149-148 to make it to the compound women's individual semifinals and stay in the hunt for a medal.

Jyothi will meet local favourite Sophie Dodemont in the last four.

Muskan Kirar and Priya Gurjar's journey ended in the second round, while Avneet Kaur lost in the opening round.

Abhishek Verma beat Germany's Sebastian Hamdorf 149-142, American Tate Morgan 146-144 and Slovenia's Stas Modic 148-147 before losing to Puerto Rico's Jean Pizarro 148-147 in the quarterfinals.

Mohan Bhardwaj lost in the second round, while Aman Saini and Sangampreet Bisla exited in the first round.

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